FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

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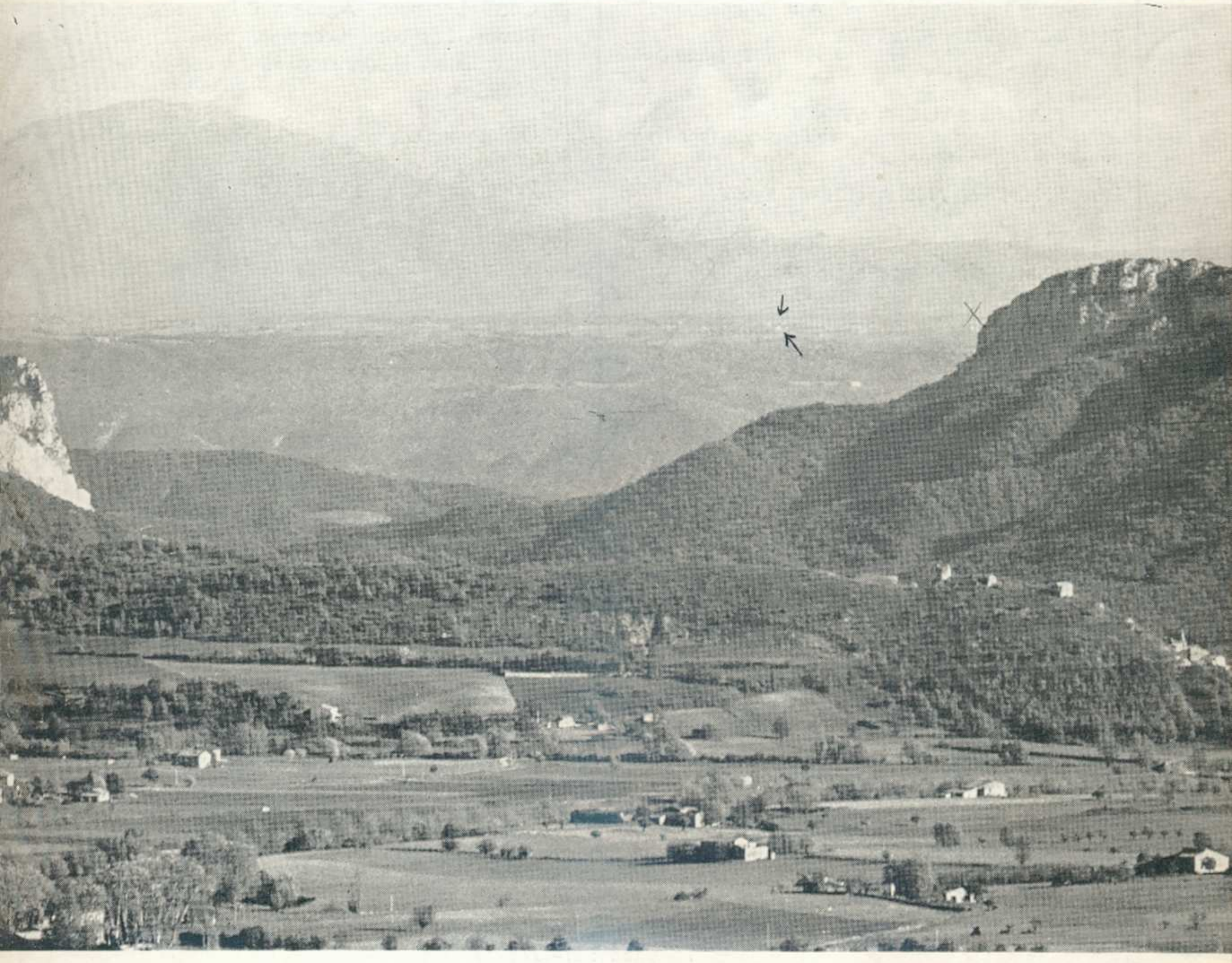

Keeping Watch on Valensole

See Page 7

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

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An international journal devoted to the study of Unidentified Flying Objects

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1969
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AMIABLE ECCENTRICS?

WHILE this journal embarks lustily on its fifteenth year, we extend to all readers and friends a traditional and sincere wish that they enjoy a Happy New Year. At the same time we do not pretend to be starry-eyed about prospects for the advent of a universally open-minded and sensible approach in the coming year to the persistent UFO reports.

Encouraging though the House of Representatives' July Symposium may have been, there were too many counterblasts elsewhere. Prejudice, whether genuine or contrived, will be as big a barrier as ever, and the signs are that FSR and a few other journals, groups and associations will remain voices crying in the wilderness.

The legend that those who are interested in UFO reports are at best merely harmless, amiable eccentrics, has been encouraged for far too long to be easily forgotten by the majority of people. We may rest assured that the survival of the legend will be encouraged wherever and whenever possible during the year to come.

Nevertheless, we nurture hope for the future. The British public is apparently not quite so apathetic as appearances would indicate, and quite a substantial percentage of them seem to have an awareness of, and aversion to, the official debunking policy—although they are not aware that such a policy was recommended in the Robertson Committee Report of January, 1953, and was seemingly adopted by the Ministry of Defence here, and by other governments elsewhere. Evidence of this awareness was apparent on the evening of November 20, 1968, when hundreds of thousands of people witnessed the stately passage of a formation of lights across the sky. Thousands of enquiries engulfed Press offices, broadcasting stations and observatories: there were also quite a few folk who turned to their directories, and rang up FSR. And long before the various and varying official pronouncements were issued, most of the enquirers proclaimed they were not prepared to accept Venus, Mars, satellite or rocket re-entry, meteors or car headlights as an explanation of the spectacular showpiece.

It is reassuring to know that there are hundreds of thousands of people who can still think independently, in spite of the soporific effect—and even brainwashing—of the mass media. We wonder what they might think of the story of M. Fontaine of Réunion (described elsewhere in this issue) if they had the chance to learn of it.

It is conceivable that as they read the first few paragraphs they would consider M. Fontaine to be just another amiable eccentric: after all, it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that although he was on record in the newspaper as being hardworking and trustworthy, there were those among his fellow islanders who privately considered that he was, perhaps, a little "peculiar". Now that he is known to have been subjected to radiation while on a walk in the woods, it is also likely that there will be a few guilty consciences.

Although this particular cat may be popped back into the bag, there should be a few guilty consciences elsewhere, for there is no knowing when

another potential amiable eccentric will find himself close to another dose of radiation, possibly too close.

Perhaps if those hundreds of thousands learned not only about this case but also about all the others of which they know nothing—or may have seen only when the witnesses and their stories were dressed-up in idiots' clothing—they would rightly condemn those who have withheld such information from the human race.

THE MILAKOVIC REPORT

W. Daniels and N. M. H. Turner

AT about 7.00 p.m. on the evening of November 20, 1968, people in many parts of England saw what was officially described as the disintegration of the Russian satellite Cosmos 253. About an hour and a half earlier, between 5.30 and 5.45 p.m., a Hednesford couple and their young son had an encounter with a flying saucer near Hanbury.

Mr. and Mrs. Milakovic live with their 11 children at 432 Cannock Road, Hednesford, a rather small, drab town surrounded by mine workings and not far from the southern end of Cannock Chase. They are middle-aged, and Milin Milakovic, a Yugoslav, is the second husband, being father of five of the children, including Slavic (11), the third witness.

Working in the scrap trade, and with their large family to look after, neither Mr. Milakovic nor his wife have time or inclination for stories of flying saucers and space travel. Mrs. Doris Milakovic told us that she considered these stories to be rubbish and that she preferred Western or Japanese war "comics". On the subject of flying saucers, however, she said that she has now changed her mind, while Mr. Milakovic has vowed that he will never again go out without a camera. Slavic does read a few science-fiction comics, mainly, as far as we could gather, about extra-terrestrial monsters and interplanetry invasions.

The locality

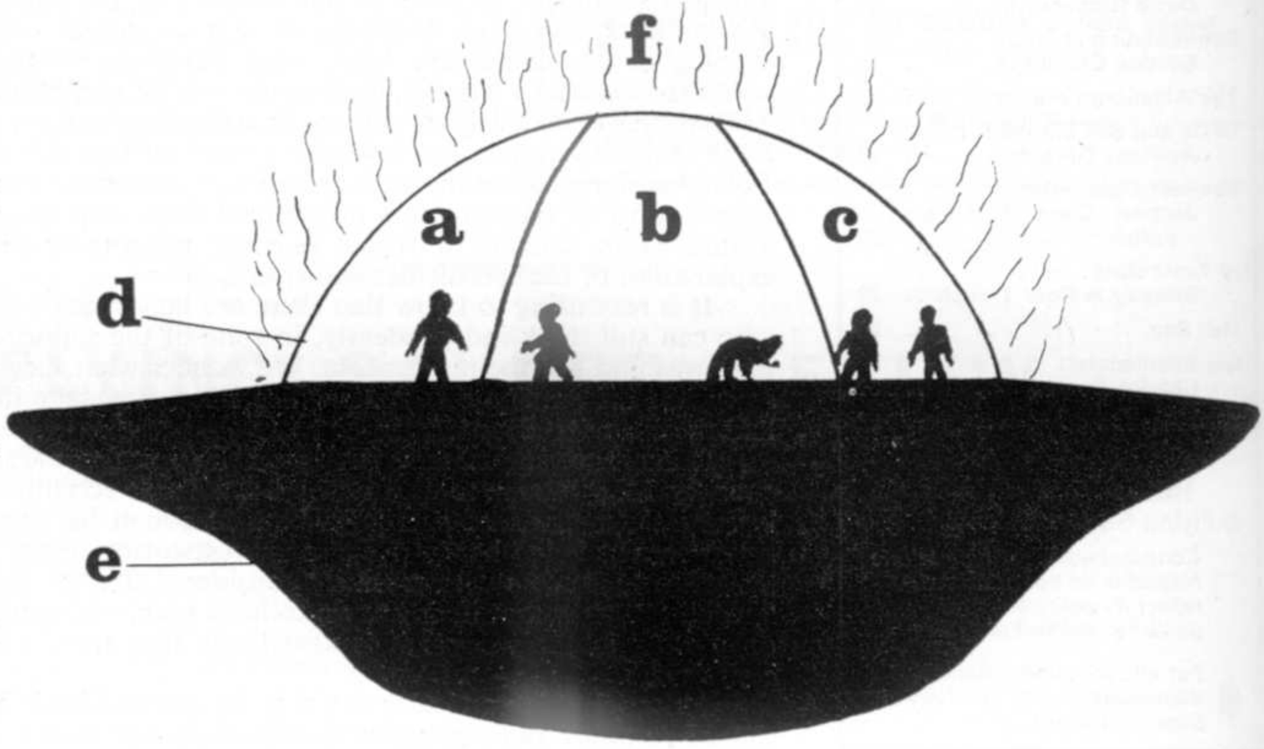
The village of Hanbury is situated on the Staffordshire/Derbyshire border, almost midway along a line joining Uttoxeter and Burton-on-Trent; on Ordnance Survey sheet 120 its map reference is 172278. Three and one-half miles north-west of Hanbury there is a large army establishment (Central Workshop 32 R.E.M.E.); two miles to the north-west there is R.A.F. Fauld, which is used mainly as an ammunition dump, and three miles almost due south there is an old wartime airfield.

The majority of the ammunition dump is believed to lie below ground and there are very vague rumours about the weapons stored there. As for the airfield, this is still used privately by the brewery firm Ind Coope for light aircraft.

On the afternoon of November

KEY:

- **a** .. White light
- **b** .. Amber light
- **c** .. Green light
- **d** .. Transparent dome
- **e** .. Intensely dark underside
- **f** .. "Wavy" iridescent light like the colours of oil on water—from "behind"



20 the Milakovics went on a house-hunting trip which took them through Rugeley and Abbots Bromley, and ended at Hanbury. After viewing Hanbury Hall they started on the homeward journey, stopping just outside the village to look at another old house that was up for sale. When they finally resumed their journey, the light was fading rapidly.

The sighting

Soon after leaving Hanbury they saw a rabbit run across the road and made comments to one another on their chances of catching it; they were amazed, however, when they saw many more rabbits following it from under the hedge on the left-hand side of the road. Suddenly—so much so that it must have been in darkness an instant before—they saw a brilliantly-lit object in the field on their left. Rising slowly from the field the object then proceeded to pass over the car (which had been stopped by Mr. Milakovic) towards a solitary house standing about 100 yards (estimated) inside a field on the right-hand side of the road. Now out of the car, the Milakovics were able to watch the progress of the object towards the house, over the top of which it stopped and hovered.

We should, perhaps, comment here that the sky was overcast and that it was either starting to, or had not long since started to rain. Mrs. Milakovic mentioned that when they first got out of the car they felt warm but when the object moved further away the temperature seemed to drop. The witnesses are convinced that at no time did they hear a noise or see any part of the object rotate; instead, as it hovered it appeared to "quiver like a jelly".

Here the first useful indication of size may be gained since Mrs. Milakovic was of the opinion that it was as wide as the house and would have crushed it if it had descended. There were no lights

For about five minutes they watched several figures—which they described as human from the form of the silhouettes—walking backwards and forwards across the brilliantly-lit top portion. Occasionally some of the figures were seen to bend down as though looking at something in the part of the object below the rim, although except the three lights and the figures nothing was visible in the top part.

Once again the object started to move away from the witnesses, only this time instead of moving in a continuous motion its progress was more of a pulsating or jerky nature. As it moved it climbed, and the lights became very intense, so much so that Mr. Milakovic commented that it felt as though his eyes were burning with the brilliance.

Thoroughly alarmed by now, Mr. Milakovic insisted that they leave the area as quickly as possible. As they drove away the object was still visible over the fields. Mrs. Milakovic explained that the feelings of Slavic and herself had been a mixture of excitement, curiosity, and apprehension (a good mixture!) and that at no time did they experience any trouble with the car.

Witness intimidation ?

The original account first appeared in the Wolverhampton *Express and Star* for Monday, November 25, 1968, and we were in touch with Mrs. Milakovic on Tuesday morning, when it was arranged that we should interview the family on Wednesday night. We took with us a tape-recorder and during the interview Mrs. Milakovic told us that she had had several 'phone-calls concerning the sighting; one from Uttoxeter, one from London, one from three students who live at Lichfield, and ours.

The students, it seems, were very interested in the sighting and had told her that they had found another witness to (possibly) the same sighting. They informed her they would be coming to Hednesford on the Sunday (November 31) to take the family to the airfield for the purpose of taking photographs. Finding that Mrs. Milakovic offered no objections to our being present on Sunday, we arranged to meet at the house at the time suggested by the students, about 3.00 p.m.

On the Sunday we arrived in good time at Hednesford to find that the Milakovics had received a threatening 'phone call to the effect that they should not go near the airfield; the voice was that of a man, but there was nothing unusual about the accent. We persuaded the family that it was probably a hoax and departed for the scene of the incident without the students who, so we were told later, never arrived.

It had been decided that we should travel by exactly the same route that the Milakovics had taken and that they should indicate the area when they recognised it. We travelled to Hanbury, turned round and just after we had passed the last house they had looked over before leaving for home that night, Mr. Milakovic stopped and said that here was where they had seen the object.

Convinced that he had chosen the wrong place, since there was no house for the object to hover over and no aircraft hangar which he seemed to think should be in the vicinity, we persuaded him to continue his journey on the off-chance that he would recognise the house. Mrs. Milakovic, incidentally, did not agree with her husband's choice of site and Mr. Milakovic himself was definitely perplexed, although he was adamant that the place he had chosen *was* the right one.

For about half an hour we toured the locality and finally decided that nothing further would be gained that evening since the Milakovics were becoming worried because they couldn't find the place, and that we should get the impression that it was all a hoax.

Further investigation

With the Milakovics having departed we again drove round the district in the hope of finding this elusive house and the aircraft hangar; no suitable houses came to light, but we did find a hangar which fits the description given by Mr. Milakovic.

Perhaps at this stage we should try to elaborate on this business of the aircraft hangar because it must tend to complicate the situation. Mr. Milakovic, at some stage of his outward or homeward journey, claims he saw an aircraft hangar which initially gave him the idea that he was observing some sort of aircraft. On the outward journey we

Continued on page 24

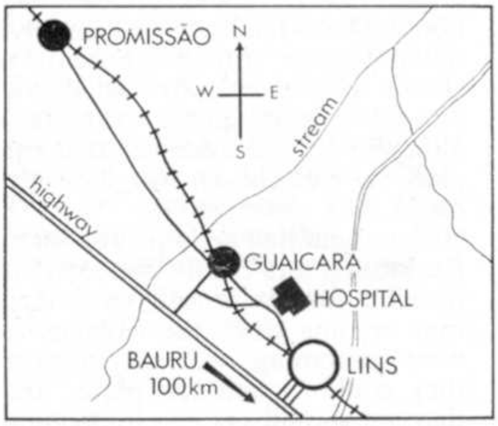
ANOTHER HOSPITAL VISITED

Nigel Rimes

Representative of *Flying Saucer Review* in Brazil

LINS is an attractive, peaceful country town 450 km. north-west of São Paulo. It lies on the vast rolling Paraná plain which is mainly scrub-covered grassland, with huge areas of sugar cane and extensive coffee plantations. (It is 100 km. beyond Baurú, where José Higgins reportedly had his famous encounter with alien entities from a landed machine on July 23, 1947.)

The Clemente Ferreira Sanatorium lies some six or seven kilometres from the town centre and is approached along an earth road. After investigating the



landing at Botucatu, it came as quite a shock to us to see here an exact replica of the hospital in the Botucatu case, complete with near-by water-tower and trees!

The purpose of our journey was to find and interview a woman named Maria José Cintra, who, according to various press reports, had claimed not only that a flying saucer had landed right in front of the entrance to the hospital building, but also that she had given water to a "foreign woman" from the vehicle. The publicity received by the case in the national press had already been considerable, but we wanted to verify the facts for ourselves and obtain more details.

The witness

Arriving at the gates of the hospital grounds, we asked the porter where we might find Dona Maria Cintra, and explained the purpose of our visit. He told us that she was not there but at her home, and went on to make it very clear to us that he did not believe the story about the flying saucer, though he added quite firmly that Dona Maria was an honest person of good character, not given to story-telling. I turned the car round and drove off to look for her, noting as I did so the presence of an electricity sub-station some twenty yards inside the gates of the hospital.

Eventually we found Dona Maria at her home in the little village of Guaiçara. She is a stout "mulata" (mulatto woman), and did not seem very enthusiastic at first about our visit. She had been given a bad time by a number of reporters and was obviously fed up with the whole business. However, we soon made it clear to her that *we* had not come to make fun of her, but were seriously interested in her experience. Bit by bit the story then came out.

She is a sort of receptionist and general servant at the hospital. She has a room over the front entrance, and part of her job is to admit new arrivals at the hospital.

The encounter

In the early hours of Tuesday, August 27, 1968, she was awakened by a noise in front of the hospital. Her description of the sound for us was something like the beating of a large bird's wings together with a whistling sound, or like that of the rotor blades of a helicopter turning after the engine has been switched off. It could also have been likened to the sound of a loose fan-belt or a squeaking water-pump on a car.

Thinking that a new patient had arrived, she called out that she was coming, and went down to the front door. Opening, she was amazed to find a "foreign-looking woman", wearing "light-coloured clothes" and with some sort of head-dress that was tight fitting and left only the face bare. Although Dona Maria could give no details of the dress, she was certain that the face was not covered. The woman was of "normal height" and spoke in a language that she could not understand. In her hands the woman held a bottle and a mug, and it was evident that the visitor wanted water.

I tried to get Maria to sketch the bottle, but as she has only just started to learn to read and write in primary school, the task was beyond her. (She is in her forties, but we did not ask her age as she was obviously very shy of speaking about herself.) However, she stated that the bottle was of glass, "just like an ordinary litre bottle", but was covered with beautiful engravings such as she had never seen before. To her there did not seem to be any particular design in the engraving, nothing such as flowers or geometrical forms, nor were there any symbols that she could recognise, and yet the beauty of the thing was such that she almost forget the presence of the stranger in looking at it.

At the drinking fount

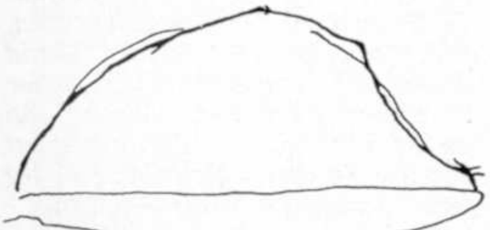
Going to the drinking fount in the corridor near the door of the hospital, Maria began to fill the bottle. As she did so, she noticed the woman looking at the two cars, parked one on either side of the entrance, and she called out to her explaining that one car belonged to the doctor on duty and the other to the hospital administrator.

The woman then came to the drinking fount. Maria handed her the full bottle, and started to fill

the mug. At this point the woman placed her hand on Maria's shoulder and said, over and over again, "*REMPAUA*". Maria's imitation of the voice would indicate that it was fairly highly pitched but very feminine. Maria's own voice is normally quite low, almost harsh.

The UFO

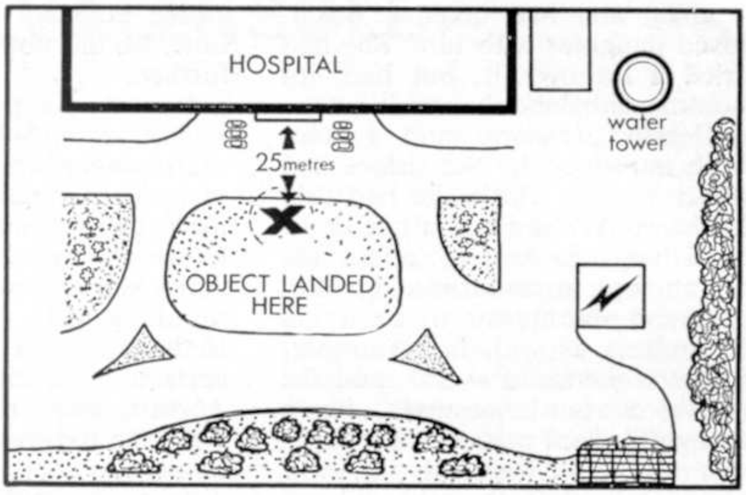
The mug filled, they returned to the door together, and went out. Only now did Maria notice the vehicle that had brought the woman, and she became very frightened indeed. Her fright was such that she can recall very little about the machine itself. It was hovering, about one metre from the ground, of this she is quite sure. She is positive that no part of the object was touching the ground. It was pear-



Old lady's sketch

shaped and brightly illuminated, and about 25 metres distant from her, above an oval grass area in the centre of the drive and opposite the hospital door. When I pressed her for more detail, Maria now grabbed my pen and with considerable difficulty drew the outline of the vehicle (Fig. 1). She does not recall having seen any sort of portholes, or even a door, and yet she watched the woman approach the object and enter it, assisted by another person who could have been either a man or a woman—she was unable to tell. As the two individuals approached the vehicle, they both made a sweeping gesture with one arm (Maria instinctively used her left arm in demonstrating to us, but could not remember which arms they had used) as though each was inviting the other to go first. At this point the events are confused. Maria is not sure whether the second person was inside or outside of the vehicle. She thought the walls of the machine might have been transparent, in which case the sweeping motion of the arms might have been nothing more than the sliding back of equally transparent doors. But this is all very unclear.

Diagram of Hospital grounds



Mode of entry

I asked her whether the woman had entered the machine from underneath, or through the side, or the top. She just did not know. As she had evidently noticed nothing unusual about the entry, it can perhaps be assumed that this took place as might be expected, through the side. Maria did not notice a door, probably because she expected to see one. Had the woman walked through a solid wall, I am quite sure that this would have registered with Maria.

All this time, while the woman was returning to the machine, Maria was shrinking back in terror into the doorway, where she clung for support.

As soon as the woman was inside the object, it took off, and climbed away in a slow vertical spiral. Maria was now sweating profusely, and ran to her room. From the window she saw the object still climbing away. As it took off and climbed, she said, it made the same sound again, like the beating of wings. The first light of dawn was just tingeing the sky as it vanished from sight.

Apart from the sweating, which left her saturated (the Brazilian press hinted at another cause) and apart from the shock, Maria suffered only a lack of appetite for several days. She has slept all right each night since, but she now does so with the window closed. Several times during our interview she said she hoped the thing would not return; that she did not want to remember what had happened; that she wanted to be left in peace; and that she wished she had not said anything about the occurrence as it would have saved her a lot of trouble.

Dona Maria's ordeal

That same morning, after the experience, she was examined by a doctor, who also tried—unsuccessfully—to find any marks left by the object. She was asked whether she could not have dreamed the whole affair. This she denies emphatically. She is quite accustomed to getting up at night to admit patients, and the first part of her experience had in fact been nothing out of the ordinary. The poor woman had obviously suffered a good deal of unpleasantness from a number of people, including some ill-mannered reporters who ought to have known better, and it is now pretty evident that she is trying to convince herself of her own sanity.

Several times she repeated to us: "I told them, 'I'm not mad. I'm a good Catholic, thank God. I say my prayers regularly and do my needlework when I feel like it. I don't smoke or drink, or go to the cinema or watch television, except when I have to stand in the doorway of the hospital's TV room, to observe patients. I lead a quiet life here in the village, where I do my shopping'."

The press has played up the insanity angle with several broad hints. Maria told us quite frankly that several years before, her husband had left her for another

woman, and had taken a much-loved daughter with him. She had cried a lot over it, but had not become unbalanced over it.

Geraldo Luciano and I were both impressed by the simple and direct way in which she had told her story. When she did not know something, she said so, and made no attempt at embroidering. Not once did she appear to be trying to impress us with her own part in the sequence of events, and she answered our questions in a straightforward manner. Throughout the interview she made it abundantly clear that she did not want to remember anything about the event, and she was certainly not going to receive any more "ignorant reporters".

Other local sightings

Several other people are said to have seen a flying saucer over Lins at about 06.45 a.m. on that same day, Tuesday, August 27. We tried to find two of them, Sr. Aurélio Galo and his wife, who had told reporters of their sighting at that time. Unfortunately we did not have their address, but only the name of the district where they lived, Vila Junqueira. This turned out to be a pretty large place, and nobody whom we asked there seemed to have heard either of the Galos' sighting or of the landing at the hospital. Being pressed for time, we did not pursue the matter further.

Comment

In conclusion, there are one or two points to make. Of the landing itself, there is only the one witness. However, we can find no reason why Maria José Cintra's story should not be accepted as true. In the first place she appears to be a perfectly sane and honest countrywoman with both feet planted firmly on the ground, and she has a reputation for honesty in the district. Secondly, being virtually illiterate, she could not possibly have read about flying saucers before the event and so could not have invented details that are common to other cases on record. Not once during our interview did I even hear her use the words "disco voador" (flying saucer); it was "an apparatus shaped like a pear, that shone with a bright light." The woman visitor was a "a foreign woman", not "a woman from Outer Space". Thirdly, as the encounter ended just before dawn, it is hardly surprising that there were no other witnesses, for the hospital is situated in a very isolated region. Indeed, a UFO *was* seen over Lins that same morning by a number of witnesses, although at present we have the names of only two of them.

Another point which is becoming extremely interesting is this large number of reported landings near medical establishments or in some way connected with medical people. Outstanding in the past 13 months, to mention Brazil alone, have been the landing in the grounds of the hospital at La Baleia, State of Minas Gerais, on September 14, 1967[1], the landing of July 1, 1968, in front of the Hospital das Clínicas and Faculty of Medicine at Rubião Junior, Botucatu, in the State of São Paulo[2], and, finally, this landing on August 27, 1968, at the Clement Ferreirat Sanatorium near Lins, also in the State of São Paulo.

(*Nor should we overlook that other remarkable report of a landing in the grounds of the hospital at El Sauce, near Mendoza, Argentina, which was reported in the "World Round-up" columns of FSR for November/December 1968. No entity was seen at El Sauce, but the nurse's eyes were burned by the light from the UFO.*—EDITOR)

NOTES

[1] Aleixo, Prof. H. B. *Humanoids encountered at La Baleia.* FSR Vol. 14, No. 6. November/December 1968.

[2] Rimes, Nigel. *The Landing at Botucatu.* FSR Vol. 14, No. 6. November/December 1968.

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KEEPING WATCH ON VALENSOLE

IN the article *A Visit to Valensole* which Aimé Michel and I prepared for the January/February 1968 edition of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, M. Michel told of an observation of an unusual light which had been reported to him by astronomer friends who had been working at the St. Michel Observatory (l'Observatoire de Haute Provence). It was concluded that the light, seen at 3.00 a.m. on September 18, 1965, was on, or very near to, the field l'Olivol where M. Maurice Masse reported his remarkable encounter with an ovalloid object and its occupants on July 1, 1965.

In *A Visit to Valensole* I disclosed how we had observed, through a narrow gap in the distant mountains to the WNW, the cupolas of the distant observatory.

Our cover photograph, taken with a telephoto lens *from the northern part* of the Observatory, clearly shows the disused house (arrowed) at the edge of the field l'Olivol, some 23 kilometres distant. The photographer, a friend of M. Michel's and a reader of FSR, writes to say that when viewed from the height of the great main cupola more to the south of the Observatory, the disused house appears just at the edge of the mountain (position marked X).

Our correspondent has been making new investigations at Valensole, and we hope soon to publish an article in which he discusses his findings. Suffice it to say for the present that he found l'Olivol in an unkempt state, as will be seen in the accompanying photograph, with the weeds now eclipsing the uncared-for lavender plants. Only weeds grow on the actual landing site, but all around l'Olivol cultivation goes on apace, and our correspondent has many interesting things to report.

CHARLES BOWEN.

DON'T FORGET . . .

Tell your friends about

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

CONTACT CASUALTY ON RÉUNION

This article is taken from the November 1968 issue of the French journal *Lumières dans la Nuit.* **Translation by Gordon Creighton.**

A SIGHTING of capital importance took place on the Island of Réunion [which is situated in the Indian Ocean between Mauritius and Madagascar] on the plain known as La Plaine des Cafres. The date of the sighting was July 31, 1968, and the time, 9.00 a.m.

The witness, M. Luce Fontaine, is aged 31, a farmer, married, with a family, his wife being a teacher. Everybody is in agreement in considering him a serious, hard-working man, who is completely worthy of trust.

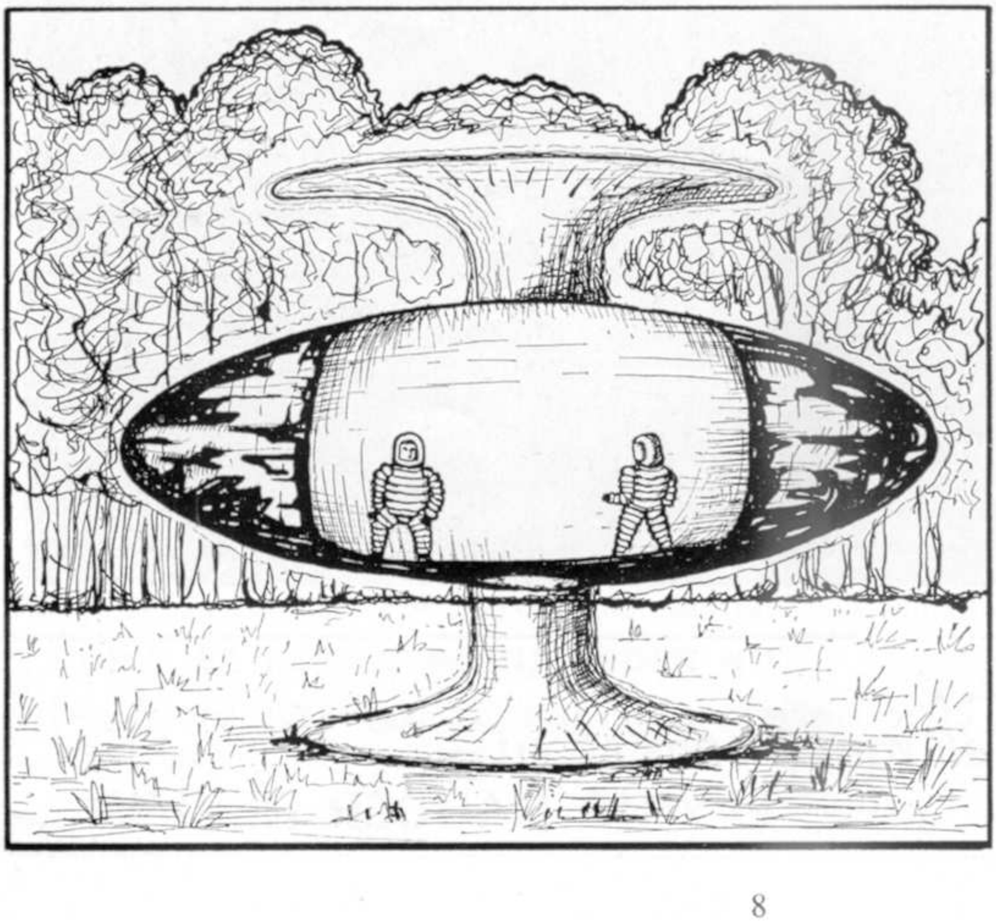
He says: "I was at [the] kilometre 21 [mark], in a small clearing in the middle of a forest of acacia trees, that morning, and I was bending down and picking some grass for my rabbits when I suddenly saw a sort of oval-shaped cabin in the clearing. It was 25 metres from me, and as though suspended at a height of four or five metres from the ground. The extremities of it were dark blue, the centre part lighter, more transparent rather like the windscreen of a [Peugeot] 404. Above and below it had what looked like two glass feet of shining metal.

"In the centre of the cabin were two individuals with their backs towards me. The one on the left turned right round and so faced me. He was standing, small, about 90 centimetres in height, enveloped from head to feet in a sort of one-piece overall a bit like the suit worn by the 'Michelin man'. The one on the right simply turned his head round towards me, but all the same I had time to catch a glimpse of his face, which was partly masked by a sort of helmet.

"Then both turned their backs to me, and there was a flash, as strong as the electric arc of a welding machine. Everything went white around me. A powerful heat was given off and then as it were a sort of blast of wind, and a few seconds later there was nothing there any more.

"Then I approached the spot over which the object had been. There were no marks. The object had a diameter of 4 or 5 metres and was about 2½ metres measured through from top to bottom. It was of a bluish colour, with white on the upper and lower parts.

"I told my wife all about it, and then the Gendarmerie, and everyone at once believed me."



Such was the first piece of testimony given by M. Fontaine, and next day the enquiry began. He then explained more precisely to the investigators that, seen "face-on", the machine, egg-shaped in appearance, looked in fact like two whitish saucers, shining like aluminium, placed face to face.

The Gendarmerie enquiry was conducted by Captain Maljean of St.-Pierre, and Captain Legros of the Service de la Protection Civile went to the site with instruments for detecting radioactivity.

A surprise awaited them. They found a certain degree of radioactivity in a radius of from 5-6 metres from the presumed scene of the near-landing, and also even on the clothing worn that day by M. Fontaine.

According to a correspondent in Réunion who is a subscriber to *Lumières dans la Nuit* and who has been good enough to send us this report, M. Fontaine informed him that only the portions of his clothing that were facing the machine bore traces of radioactivity.

According to Captain Legros, their attention was drawn to eight radioactive points, on tufts of grass

Continued on page 11

LET'S TAKE OFF OUR BLINKERS

Dan Lloyd

FEW would deny that among the multitude of theories advanced to account for the UFO enigma, one predominant idea appears to run like a connecting thread between them. This is that the earth is somehow or other being subjected to some kind of surveillance by entities other than human, this basic theme being elaborated according to whether the theorist is disposed more to a material or non-material interpretation of the phenomenon.

The material view would appear to consist in asserting that we are being visited by inter-planetary spaceships, powered by some form of magnetic force field and piloted by a motley assortment of corporeal beings whose activities range from active hostility to unctuous benevolence. The literature that deals with this aspect is already enormous and a vast amount of ingenuity has been expended in spreading this particular form of gospel, even the Bible being enlisted as supporting proof.

From a "fourth dimension"?

On the other hand, there is the view that UFOs are manifestations from some kind of hypothetical "fourth dimension" of space, and to those who are not satisfied with the material interpretation this theory makes a powerful appeal. Again, an enormous amount of brain-power has been expended on metaphysical arguments seeking to demonstrate the validity of a postulated fourth dimension on the basis of higher mathematics. Those UFO theorists who invoke the fourth dimension can not only point to abstract philosophy in support of their contentions; they can, and do, assert that many behavioural patterns of UFOs are consistent with "another dimension" being the source of the manifestations—e.g. sudden appearances and disappearances attended by phenomenal speed and other gravity-defying characteristics.

Link with psychic phenomena?

There is beginning to emerge yet another viewpoint, which sees in UFOs something intimately linked with such kindred "dammed facts" as poltergeist phenomena, hauntings, precognition, telepathy, and many other "aberrations" of the human psyche.

It is, perhaps, symptomatic of the feeling that a new understanding of the human being must arise that a new look is being directed towards the ancient wisdom of the East in the belief that it can provide some key with which to unlock the door to the mystery of man's relation to the Universe. Those UFOlogists who thus turn their gaze backwards to the storehouse of oriental wisdom feel that by equipping themselves with concepts taken from that great treasury of spiritual knowledge they will be able to shed some light on the UFO problem which, in their view, is incapable of being understood by the materialistic concepts of modern science or the abstractions of metaphysics.

Now it could be argued, and I will attempt to do so, that those who borrow their concepts from the past, however "spiritual" those concepts may appear, are simply opposing one abstraction with another—using abstraction in the sense that a particular view is abstracted from the total picture and held up as the truth, whereas the truth must surely be many-sided and embrace all abstractions.

Western and Eastern abstractions

For consider the position. The materialist asserts as his abstraction that intelligent life can only arise through the agency of a physical body which has undergone an evolution from lower to higher forms, culminating in the perfection of man. Therefore, he argues, if intelligent life exists elsewhere in the Universe, there must have been a similar process of physical natural selection in operation, as matter is considered to be the primal stuff from which intelligent life is born.

In opposition to this purely materialistic abstraction, the "non-materialist" who is steeped in the terminology of the East points to the existence of "pure spirit" as being the sole reality, at the same time asserting that matter is simply an illusion which only owes its apparent reality to the fact that our senses are bewitched and cannot perceive the true reality lying behind the senses.

So on the one hand we have the Western abstraction which asserts that matter is the sole reality and psychic activity simply an emanation from it; and on the other hand we have the Eastern abstraction which denies any ultimate reality to matter and concerns itself solely with inner experience. In the East, matter is an illusion; in the West, spirit is an illusion.

Since the impetus given to the development of logical thought by the Greek philosophers, almost every shade of philosophic opinion between these two polar extremes has been expressed. In every direction the intellect of man has exerted itself in order to comprehend the world; almost every metaphysical abstraction it is possible to construct has already been pursued to its logical conclusion. And yet, with our libraries bursting at the seams with catalogued erudition, man continues to pose the age-old question: Who am I and what is my relation to the world?

Philosophy powerless

In what direction can he turn to find an answer to this question? Man feels with a sure instinct for truth that philosophy as such is powerless to help him. Materialistic science is simply the result of the abstract thinking which has dominated the Western world since the fifteenth century, and although magnificent achievements have been made in this domain, nowhere has it been able to grasp the reality of man's being. The situation that has developed whereby knowledge of the physical world, gained through the physical senses, has been held up as the only form of cognition of which

man is capable has inevitably led to an immense enslavement of thought in the opposite realm, that of the dogmatic confessions, which have increasingly taken upon themselves the role of spokesmen for the domain which transcends the physical. Man is required merely to believe as opposed to know. On the one hand he is required to worship materialistic *knowledge;* on the other hand dogmatic *belief*.

This contradiction can never be resolved at its own level—the level of abstract thinking. For just as assuredly as modern science can be said to be materialistic as a result of abstract thinking, so too can the various Western religious confessions be said to be materialistic, for they, too, in the form in which they are presented today, deny reality by maintaining an authoritarian structure which opposes the development of free creative thinking, and this, in turn, works over into the lifeless concepts that are brought to bear on natural science.

The key lies in the phrase *free creative thinking*. In other words, thinking itself must undergo a radical transformation in both *knowledge* and *activity*. How is this to be achieved? By what means can man bring about a science that is fully rooted in spiritual reality and a religious life that unfolds in genuine creative freedom? And what has all this to do with flying saucers?

The supreme importance of Steiner

For the answers to these questions, I would refer the reader to the works of Rudolf Steiner. I maintain that no other figure of modern times can equal the importance of this man as a historical personality whose mission it was to impart impulses for a complete regeneration of our cultural, scientific and religious conceptions. Space does not permit me to do more than sketch in the tremendous significance of this great Austrian teacher for the future of mankind. Suffice it to say that he was as at home as an investigator in the spiritual world as the average scientist is in the physical, and was at great pains to express himself in terms that could be grasped by the healthy reason. Nebulously mystical statements were anathema to him, for what could not be grasped by clear thinking was not worth communicating. But what he gave forth as a body of teaching concerning the spiritual world and its beings and their connection with mankind throws the present situation regarding the UFO problem into sharp relief. Against this background of spiritual knowledge, it becomes apparent that certain sub-conscious faculties in man are beginning to stir. A new form of clairvoyance is beginning to emerge from the depths of the human soul, a clairvoyance not dependent on bodily functions, as in certain forms of mediumship, but one which is *free* of the physical organisation. This clairvoyant perception will enable man to recognise his true connection with the planets of our solar system and the other heavenly bodies, for man is in truth a microcosm of the Universe and is intimately united with the forces and beings of the extra-terrestrial world.

What is manifesting today as a longing to explore the solar system in spaceships is nothing but a distortion of this sub-conscious awakening. The idea of spaceships from Venus, Mars or beyond can, likewise, only be seen in its true light when it is recognised as a distortion of what is occurring beneath the threshold of consciousness.

For the spiritual beings of the other planets *are* coming to earth—but not in spaceships. They are appearing on earth in a form consistent with their inner nature and are relating themselves to the faculties dawning in human beings in order to ensure that man's evolution proceeds in accordance with the intentions of the spiritual hierarchies who lie behind this evolution.

What, then, it may well be asked, are the physical manifestations of UFOs that are so widely reported, which appear to be anything but etheric in their effect, in that they leave physical impressions, interfere with electro-magnetic apparatus, and so on?

Ahrimanic, or Satanic beings

In order to answer this question, it should be known that there are on this earth other spiritual beings whose intention it is to prevent mankind following its true evolution. Known as the Ahrimanic beings, they are actively engaged in furthering every form of materialistic concept, for this will lead to a one-sided development of man's intellect and prevent spiritual knowledge flowing into him and thus being applied to such vital human activities as education, medicine, science, art and religion. These beings, also known as the "lying spirits", are in the service of the cosmic being who has been known since ancient Persian times as Ahriman. In the Bible he is known as Satan.

These beings have the ability to perverting the clairvoyant perceptions that are beginning to unfold in

AIMÉ MICHEL

FSR CONSULTANT

The Editor is very happy to announce that his old friend Aimé Michel has accepted an invitation to join the FSR panel of consultants. Needless to say, M. Michel has already been "consulted" on a great many occasions, so the recognition of his valuable advice and assistance on the page 1 "masthead" is long overdue.

The best known of all researchers in our field, and a journalist by profession, M. Michel is a *Licencié en Philosophie*, with special degrees in mathematics, logic and general philosophy, history of philosophy, psychology and sociology at the Universities of Aix en Provence, Grenoble and Marseille. Students of our subject know him best for his two brilliant books, for his articles in *Flying Saucer Review* and for his work in *Planète*, of which journal he is a director. However, he has an even greater audience by virtue of his articles in scientific journals, and of other books, the most recent of which is *Histoire de la France Secrète*, written in collaboration with J-P. Clébert (Editions Planète).

man. There could be no greater distortion of what is actually happening at the present time in man's relation to the spiritual world than to spread the delusion that physical machines are coming to earth with physical beings from outer space. In this way the march of materialism is maintained beyond the earth and a hallucinatory picture is held up before men's eyes. The fact is that the etheric world is beginning to unveil itself in this century, and to slumber away this supremely important event in human development by elaborating fantastic theories based on the present materialistic concepts of outer space will only lead man farther into the abyss which has been planned for him by the Ahrimanic beings.

Conclusion

It is not from some hypothetical "fourth dimension" that what we call UFOs are manifesting. It would be truer to say that they are deliberately distorted etheric effects, and it should surprise no one to learn that such effects can influence physical matter and create, in turn, physical effects, for the spiritual forces which stream through the Universe are, in their interaction, the creators and sustainers of physical matter.

It is high time that science took off its blinkers and began to investigate the connections between the earth and the other planets of our system by comprehending the nature of these etheric forces in plant, animal and man.

The enigma of flying saucers will, I maintain, only be resolved when man's spiritual perception enables him to discriminate between truth and error here in the physical world, and man's reason is raised from the sub-human to the human level. And the enormous life's work of Rudolf Steiner is the beacon pointing ahead to man's truly human development.

Casualty on Réunion

Continued from Page 8

and on pebbles, where they detected up to sixty thousandths of a Roentgen.

This figure is in fact extremely low from the point of view of dangerous contamination. It is recognised that a rescuer can be exposed for a few moments to a radiation of 25 Roentgens. Up to as much as 100 Roentgens, the damage to the organism is not irreversible, but it becomes so at 200, and at 600 Roentgens death is certain.

But all the observers have pointed out that this enquiry into the radioactivity only took place ten days later, after the abundant rains that occur in those tropical regions, as well as the high altitude, had permitted the terrain to get well washed down. So the level of radioactivity would surely have been much higher than that on the day of the occurrence.

However that may be, the radioactive grass and pebbles are now in a laboratory.

These are concrete findings regarding which there can be no expression of doubt.

The sketch which accompanies this article is reproduced from the drawing made on the spot by the artist Gérard Piednoir of the *Journal de l'Ile de la Réunion*, in collaboration with M. Fontaine himself, and the report was written by M. Claude Huc.

Since the receipt of the first report, dated August 28, we have written to the *Journal de l'Ile de la Réunion*, as well as to our correspondent there, to express our concern as to the fate of the witness after his exposure to an unknown but radioactive irradiation. We told them of what had happened here in France, at Brazey,* and asked them to inform the Service de la Protection Civile.

There have been other sightings too in Réunion and in the neighbouring island of Mauritius. On August 11, a cigar-shaped craft was seen over Réunion, while, at Curepipe, in Mauritius, a craft was seen in flight in June. It is described as similar to the one seen by M. Fontaine.

FSR Editor's Postscript

Since the appearance of the first sketchy newspaper accounts of this case, rumours were circulating that not only had M. Luce Fontaine fallen victim to the radiation, but that the effect of this was so severe that he had been flown to Paris where he had been admitted to the Curie Foundation. A "Stop Press" item in *Lumières dans la Nuit*—November 1968 edition—stated that this, according to their Réunion correspondent, had indeed happened. M. Aimé Michel, however, after advising me that his information was that the witness had been irradiated, had counselled the utmost caution while we awaited the results of further enquiries which he was making. This was before the publication of the *Lumières dans la Nuit* article.

We have now learned from M. Michel that friends of his in the medical profession had learned that M. Fontaine had **not** been flown to Paris, and had **not** been admitted to the Curie Foundation. Subsequent enquiries in Réunion by M. Michel's correspondent in the island had revealed that the false story had been circulated by the Fontaine family to obtain peace and quiet by putting investigators off the scent. Nevertheless it seems that Luce Fontaine had suffered some effects from exposure to radiation, but not of the degree of severity suggested in the rumours.

NOTE (by Gordon Creighton)

* The case referred to occurred at Brazey-en-Morvan in France, and the Editor of *Lumières dans la Nuit* mentions it briefly elsewhere in this same issue, and says there will be a full account of it in the next issue (December 1968).

Meanwhile, it can be stated briefly that the case concerns a machine which landed not far from a flock of sheep. The result was: two sheep missing, one sheep dead (of causes which the veterinarians are unable to explain), while two more died over the course of the next few weeks. Another result discovered at the landing site was that hundreds of slugs were found to have undergone a mutation, and changed colour; all of them soon died.

HUMANOIDS ENCOUNTERED AT BALEIA Part 2

Professor Hulvio B. Aleixo

Sr. Aleixo is President of C.I.C.O.A.N.I., the Civilian Centre for the investigation of Unidentified Aerial Objects (Centro de Investigação Civil dos Objetos Aéros Não-Identificados), Belo Horizonte, Capital of the State of Minas Gerais, Brazil. Translated by Gordon Creighton.

SYNOPSIS

In the first part of his article, our contributor gave an account of his investigations of the claim of Fábio Diniz, aged 16, of Belo Horizonte, Brazil, that while on his way to visit an outlying ward of the La Baleia Hospital at 9.0 a.m. on September 14, 1967, he passed a football pitch on which a mushroom-shaped object had landed. He stated, furthermore, that two "men" had emerged from a "door" in the lower part, and had called to him to stay when he backed away in alarm, and then added, in Portuguese that he should return to the spot the next day, or his family would be taken away.

There were several newspaper accounts of this alleged incident, and the following item is taken from the issue of *Correio do Povo*, of Pôrto Alegre, which appeared on October 3, 1967, nearly three weeks after the case was reported:

"The high school boy Fábio José Diniz still maintains, in his statements, without falling into any contradictions, that he conversed with strange beings that emerged from a flying saucer on a football field and threatened him, speaking in perfect Brazilian vernacular. Moreover he is a changed person since the date when the happening 'occurred'.

"He has not been to school any more since, he has not been any more to the shop where he used to work, selling Venetian blinds, and his mother says apprehensively that he weeps greatly when telling the story and that at times he is found crying to himself in secret.

"Few folk however entirely believe the fantastic story of Fábio. In addition to making a statement to the Department of Public Security, he has given a complete report to Sr. Húlvio Brant Aleixo, President of the CICOANI of Belo Horizonte . . .

"Fábio went, with Sr. Húlvio Brant Aleixo, back to the football field for a 'rendezvous' which the two extraterrestrial beings had arranged with him, but at which they did not appear.

"According to the directors of CICOANI, all that was to be found in the area in question was a slight depression which, so the boy asserted, had been made by the heel of the shoe of one of the entities. A small quantity of charred material was found. Using a compass, they also checked to see if there were any residual magnetic effects, but the result of this was negative."

LABORATORY TESTS: BALEIA AND OTHER CASES

1. ANALYSIS OF MATERIAL FROM BALEIA

The substance gathered on the football field at Baleia was at a distance of a few metres from the spot where, according to Fábio J. Diniz, the object had been standing. It was found by CICOANI member Alberto F. do Carmo and a policeman. It consisted of lightweight black grains, of irregular shape, giving off an unpleasant smell and crumbling to dust under slight pressure. This substance was taken to the Central Institute of Geo-Sciences of the Federal University of Minas Gerais. Professor Roberto Leste Murto did radiation tests on it, with a negative result. The spectrographic analysis resulted in the following verdict:—

Material: ? For purpose of establishing constituent elements.

Source: Area of Baleia Hospital, Bairro da Saudade, Belo Horizonte.

Colour: Dark with *unpleasant smell* (our italics—H.B.A.).

Analysis: Principal constituents: *Iron, Aluminium, Magnesium, Silica.*

Trace elements: copper, phosphorus, zinc, cobalt, zirconium, nickel, titanium.

Analysed by Professor Edmar Vaz de Mello e Araújo.

2. ANALYSIS OF MATERIAL FROM CAMPO GRANDE

This case, signed by Sr. Otaviano A. Souza Bueno, at that time residing at No. 39 rua Taipas, Vila Pompéia, São Paulo, deals with a 1948 happening that occurred at a site near Campo Grande in Mato Grosso. While he was strolling near a creek called the Betione, one morning, Sr. Otaviano observed the silent descent of a round luminous object on one of the banks of the stream. With extremely rapid movements there emerged from it three creatures of less than medium height, which started collecting samples of soil, using for this a tube which, pointed towards the ground, made holes in it. After the UFO had left, the witness approached the spot and noticed that the holes were all completely equal and perfectly square. He decided to extract a sample of the material taken by the strange beings. The result of the Analysis, No. 79,528, done by the Institute of Technological Research at São Paulo was as follows:— *Silica, 61 per cent; Alumina, 19 per cent; Magnesium, 11 per cent; Iron* plus other trace elements.

"The people who did the analysis were unable to explain to me whether there existed any useful application for this material," says Sr. Otaviano.[14]

3. ANALYSIS OF MATERIAL FROM FLORENCE

Over Florence, Italy, on October 27, 1954, a big formation of flying saucers was reported. A game of football by the team 'Fiorentina' was suspended, with 10,000 spectators, referee and the players themselves, all looking up at the sky, while shining flakes (laminas luzentes) fell, landing more or less all over the place.

The result of the microscopic and spectrographic analysis made at the Chemical Institute of the University of Milan by Professor Giovanni Canneri, was as follows:—

"Substance of fibrous structure, with mechanical resistance to traction and torsion. Bursts into flame when wetted, leaving a fusible, transparent residue. Composition of the fusible residue, examined by spectrograph, was as follows:—

Iron, Silicon, Magnesium, Calcium and other trace elements. A substance of macro-cellular construction. The microchemical examination suggested a similarity to boron-silicon glass."[15]

4. ANALYSIS OF MATERIAL FROM VILLA CONSTITUCIÓN, ARGENTINA, by the Geology and Mineralogy Division, La Plata.

The analysis identified the terrestrial

material as follows:—

Material: Soil highly charged with radioactivity.

Source: Villa Constitución, Rosario, Argentine Republic.

Colour: Dark, with disagreeable smell (brimstone).

Constituent Elements: *Carbon, Magnesium, Iron, Nickel, Aluminium, Copper* and a few impurities.[16]

* * * * *

Since we compiled this report we have learnt of the report by GEOANI (UFO Study Group at Itajubá, State of Minas Gerais), in which they draw attention to the frequency of UFOs in the vicinity of deposits of *Dolomite* and *Talc* in the municipality of Itajubá, Minas Gerais. The President of GEOANI, Sr. Antônio Magalhães Lisbôa, ventilated the hypothesis that *Magnesium* is an item of basic interest for the crews of the UFOs. It is a very viable hypothesis, as can be seen from the analysis results given above. GEOANI's hypothesis was based on the analyses made of the Dolomite and the Talc from the deposits in question.

* * * * *

PSYCHOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

The psychological investigation of the Baleia Case, which is of fundamental importance in testing the various working hypotheses set forth (Pt. 1), was divided into four complementary processes, namely: (1) observation of the youth's behaviour, (2) truth-drug interrogations, (3) psychological tests, (4) interrogation under hypnosis. The investigation ran as follows:—

Observation of the youth's behaviour

From the moment that we arrived at the Police Department, about one hour after the alleged incident, the youth's behaviour was closely observed throughout all the successive interviews, the reconstitutions of the event at the spot, and also in all informal situations during the following days.

Upon the occasion of our first meeting with him we observed acute psychosomatic symptoms of fear and shock: his facial expression indicated anxiety and astonishment; pallid features, tremor of the hands, intense perspiration, pressure in the chest and rapid heart, verbal expressions of fear or insecurity in the presence of strangers. His weeping was intermittent, coming on every time that the youth described the apparition of the "men" behind the screen, and the subsequent threat to his family.

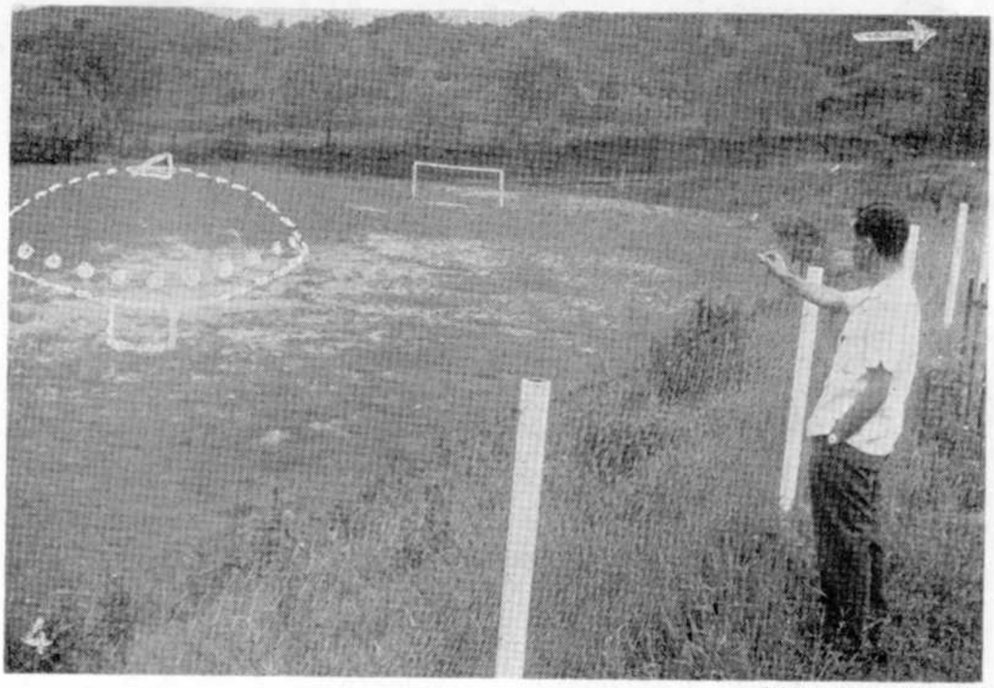
The correlation between the intensity of the emotional disturbance in him and this passage in the incident remained constant over the period of several days and was clearly perceptible in the tape-recordings.

We did not find that these emotional symptoms were accompanied by any disturbances as regards the manner or the order of his thinking, as regards the clarity of his consciousness, as regards his orientation in space and time, as regards neuromotor conduct, or as regards attention. This caused us to conclude that the symptoms were confined to the emotional level, inasmuch as we had observed no signs of any psychotic episode such as might account for a possible hallucination.

Truth-drug interrogations

These truth-drug sessions involved the youth himself, his parents, friends, colleagues, neighbours, and employers. The aim in these sessions was to secure such data as the following: symptoms, physical constitution; pathological antecedents of either the family or individuals of the family; family history and background; social background and level of education; interests and level of aspirations; social-economic level, religious life, educational life, structural and dynamic aspects of personality.

The data secured by this means indicated a certain tendency in the youth towards fantasy, linked with the typical problems of adolescence, plus a powerful desire for self-affirmation *vis-à-vis* a certain rigidity in the social surroundings. On the other hand, however, the sessions brought to light no symptoms whatever of a pathological nature. The hypothesis of organic poisoning — either through alcohol, psychedelic drugs, medicines or as a result of infection—was ruled out.



Photograph Dr. W. Buhler

The author surveys the football field. UFO drawn where allegedly seen.

Psychological tests

The psychological tests—in the conduct of which there was a temporary interruption—included a series of aptitude tests, two personality tests, and a listing of his interests.

The temporary interruption was due to the journeys and other arrangements that the boy was making in connection with his enrolment in the School for Naval Apprentices at Vitória, in the State of Espíritu Santo. To this end he had already undergone physical and psychological examinations, being finally selected as a suitable candidate, along with about a dozen of his colleagues, out of a total of over thirty who had applied.

Hypnosis

For the hypnosis test we first secured the consent of the youth and of his parents. Meanwhile, as he was about to make the test, the hypnotist decided to give the youth a demonstration, by hypnotising somebody else. This experiment made a vivid impression on the youth and caused him to refuse to submit to the test. However, proofs of his suggestibility were secured, indicating that the boy is an apt subject for the hypnotic process.

CRITICAL EVALUATION OF THE DATA

Taking as our point of reference the possibility that the incident possessed objective reality, we proceeded next to examine the principal negative and positive aspects suggested by the boy's

own account and by the data secured in our investigations.

Negative

i. Although the investigation revealed that there was indeed a probable absence of any other persons in the immediate vicinity and at the time indicated by the youth, it is reasonable to feel some surprise that a machine of the size described should have escaped notice by third parties.

ii. We did discover in the boy a penchant towards fantasy and a certain degree of suggestibility.

iii. The boy had just come out, shortly before his alleged experience, from a funeral parlour where the body of a friend was lying.

iv. During the last few years a long film, adapted for television, was shown on the Belo Horizonte TV. This film (which the youth declares he did *not* see) shows a type of flying saucer very similar to the one that he described.

Positive

i. His account is intrinsically coherent and constant throughout the numerous repetitions. It reveals a logical link between the start, the continuation, and the close.

ii. Though little was published about them, there were numerous other sightings at the same time as the Baleia Case, indicating that UFOs were present in the Belo Horizonte region. Among those sightings that did get published, none contained any details that might have given the youth the idea of duplicating the story with one of his own.

iii. Many features in the Baleia Case reveal similarity with the cases at San Casciano, Catania, Pajas Blancas, Rio Pardo, Itajubá, and in the State of Rio de Janeiro. With the exception of this last-mentioned case (which was published *after* the youth's account), all the other cases involved publications that were either specialised, or foreign, or both. We established that the youth had had no previous knowledge of such cases, involving similarity of such features as:—

SHAPE AND STRUCTURAL DETAILS

a. Spherical cabin or lenticular shape with central cylindrical appendage (mushroom) below.

b. Ports or openings near the outer rim of the cabin.

OPERATIONAL DETAILS

a. Sliding cylinder, serving as a *lift*, which emerged as the UFO was descending and went in again as it rose up. There is an accumulation of data suggesting that this type of UFO, as it approaches the ground, becomes stationary in the air at a height sufficient for the bottom of the lift-shaft, as it descends, not to meet the ground. This explains the absence of any depression in the soil at the spot.

b. The door to the lift opening slowly, from below upwards.

c. Slow, vertical, take-off, in the first few metres; then increased speed in an oblique trajectory.

d. Lights of various colours, pulsating intermittently.

e. Silent motion.

CREW

a. Presence of humanoid beings, generally in pairs, of heights ranging from medium to tall (1.50 m. to 2.15 m.).

b. One-piece clothing, at times tight-fitting like that of divers; antennae on the head.

c. Verbal communication in witness's own language; voice resonating as though through a loudspeaker.

iv. During the successive interrogations and re-enactments of the event, the youth displayed genuine symptoms of fear, of such an intensity, nature, and gradations, that they could not possibly have been staged. A clear correlation was noted between the rise in emotional tension and the menacing passages in the episode.

v. The results of the analysis of the material from the Baleia case, set side by side with other cases, constitute a piece of positive evidence (see Table 1).

CONCLUSION

The data available seem to us to suggest elimination of the apparently most simple hypothesis, i.e. of conscions fantasy. In other words, the behaviour of the youth showed clearly that he sincerely believes that he saw the scene he has described.

As regards the theory of *unconscious* fantasy, in this case a visual or auditory hallucinatory episode, the data gathered to date are not sufficient to eliminate it completely. Nevertheless, they indicate little room for such a possibility.

On the other hand, the already extensive international documentation concerning the characteristic features and the performances of the flying saucers is steadily broadening the margin of credibility of cases such as the one that we have just examined. To sum up, there exist hundreds of cases that agree basically with the Baleia Case and that render viable its objective reality, in the manner and in the circumstances described by the youth.

The final answer, however, will come only with the development of events.

BELO HORIZONTE
November 1967

NOTES

[14] CICOANI Report No. 35.
[15] Newspaper *Fanfulla*, São Paulo, October 20, 1954 (ANSA).
[16] Ojeda, Nicolás M. (President of GRODOV, UFO Study Group in Rosario, Argentina). Communication of October 22, 1967, to CICOANI.

TABLE 1

BALEIA	CAMPO GRANDE	FLORENCE	VILLA CONSTITUCIÓN
(material found on ground)	(material gathered by UFO)	(material dropped from UFO)	(material found on ground)
Magnesium	**Magnesium-11%**	**Magnesium**	**Magnesium**
Iron	**Iron**	**Iron**	**Iron**
Silica	**Silica-61%**	**Silicon**	**Carbon**
Aluminium	**Alumina-19%**	**Calcium**	**Aluminium**
plus trace-elements: copper, nickel, zinc, cobalt, phosphorus, zirconium, titanium.	plus trace-elements.	plus trace-elements.	**Nickel**
" dark colour, disagreeable smell "			**Copper**
			plus trace-elements.
			" dark colour, disagreeable smell "

THE "LITTLE MAN" OF NORTH CAROLINA

John A. Keel

Photographs of alleged UFOs demand close scrutiny, and there is no reason why photographs of alleged "occupants" should not fall into the same category. This photograph, the first of its kind, is offered for the record, with no attempt to pass judgment.

SOON after the Dell publishing Company in New York decided to discontinue its magazine, *Flying Saucers-UFO Reports*, Miss Carmena Freeman, the editor, received an intriguing colour photograph in the mail. It was a contact print of a small figure holding a funnel-shaped object and standing ih front of a white sphere. The covering letter was written by a 14-year-old boy and was notably lacking in details. He simply stated that a spherical object had landed behind his home in North Carolina and that he had photographed a small humanoid who had emerged from it. Miss Freeman turned the letter and photo over to me and I began a long correspondence with the young photographer.

The young man was agonisingly slow in answering his mail. We continued to exchange letters throughout most of 1968 and I sent him a long questionnaire to fill out, asking a number of tricky questions designed to double-check his story. I also obtained notarised affadavits from his parents, his school teachers, and the adult leader of his local 4-H Club, all testifying that they had seen the photograph and that they believe his story is true.

His family made one discouraging request: they were wary of publicity and asked that their address be withheld from print. Since they live in a very small town in North Carolina, we cannot even reveal its name without violating that request. (The address, however, has been filed with this publication and is available to responsible researchers.) We can say that the town is on the edge of a very large swamp in North Carolina, in Pamlico Country.

The photographer, Ronnie Hill, is a rather exceptional young man. At the time of our initial correspondence he was 14 years old and was the president of his 8th grade class, president of the local 4-H Club, and assistant Patrol Leader in the Boy Scouts. He enjoys a good reputation as an honest, sensible, hard-working boy.

The original colour print is quite clear and I have shown it to several professional photographers in New York City. We blew it up to wall size, measured it and studied it minutely. On close inspection, the figure appears to be exactly as Ronnie describes it and does not seem to be a doll or other hoax. The measurements verify Ronnie's estimates of size and distance. The editors and art directors of SAGA magazine have also examined the print carefully and confirmed our findings.

Unfortunately, we felt it prudent not to ask Ronnie to send the original negative to use through the mails. We have not seen the negative but we have spoken to those adults who have.

We should note that Ronnie specifically mentions a "strange odour" in the air prior to the appearance of the "little man". This "gas" factor is a little-known aspect of such cases and was largely ignored until I published an article on UFO-related "gases" in SAGA, July 1968. Ronnie wrote his account of this incident long before that article was published.

Ronnie's Story

On the afternoon of Friday, July 21, 1967, young Hill was working in the garden behind his family's home when the incident

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allegedly took place. Here is how he tells it in his own words:

"I noticed a strange odour in the air which smelt like gas. Which caused my eyes to water. Also I noticed a sound . . . a sound of silence. Usually there are birds chattering and dogs barking. But that day I heard no such sound.

"After about 15 minutes I heard a buzzing sound and the increasing smell of gas. So when I turned my heard I saw a strange thing in the sky. It looked like a black hat . . . Then my eyes caught a glimpse of something moving. It was a white ball about 9 feet in diameter. It started to fly by itself . . . I fell to the ground . . . all sorts of things dashing through my mind . . I knew no-one would believe me of what I saw and I would have to have some proof, so I ran to the house to get my camera (a Kodak "Sabie 620"—J.A.K.). When I came into the house I told no-one of what I saw, there wasn't enough time. "When I returned to the scene I saw the object (the white ball—J.A.K.) on the ground. About 5 seconds later I heard a loud noise which hurt my ears. I was breathless, because a little man about 3½ to 4ft. tall came from behind the ball-shaped object, carrying with him a funnel-shaped black object in his right hand. Then quickly he put it near the ground. Then pulled it back up to his hip. Then he turned and went behind the ball. The loud noise rang again. Then a bright blue flare bursted from beneath the 'ship', then it took off into the air slowly. Then the big ship reappeared . . . the round ship connected itself to a rod and it pulled the round ship into a hole. Then the big one took off at tremendous speed and disappeared over the tree tops."

While all this was happening, Ronnie claims he heard a faint hissing sound and he doesn't know if it came from the object or from the creature. Such "hissing sounds" have been reported in other landing cases, and even in that of the redoubtable Captain Hooton in 1897. Ronnie says the little man moved "slowly and wobbly" and seemed to have trouble controlling his legs when he turned, swinging them stiffly.

The distance between the young photographer and the creature was about 15 feet. The photo, the only one that came out, is bluish and marred by fogging on both edges. This is actually in Ronnie's favour since this same kind of fogging has turned up in other apparently authentic UFO photos and it has been suggested that it is caused by radiation or actinic rays of some kind coming from the object. In the original print, the creature appears to have puffed or fleshy cheeks with high cheekbones, and it sports a helmet that is almost Germanic. The funnel-shaped object is visible in his hand. Ronnie says the little man's skin-tight suit was silvery and metallic, and its head seemed to be a bluish-green. The eyes were "tilting or slanting". It wore a silver helmet and there was a dark blue belt around the waist. "Blue belts" have been described by several witnesses in South America.

The "loud noise" reported by Ronnie has been an oft-recurring feature in landing reports from all over the world. I feel that these corroborative details add to the credibility of the boy's story. It should be noted that he can't even obtain TRUE or SAGA magazines in his area. He did see one issue of the Dell magazine but it is unlikely he would have been aware of all these details unless he had read specialised publications such as FSR's *The Humanoids*.

The photograph reproduced here is an enlargement of a black and white negative made from the original print and much of the original detail has been lost.

You will recall that Mr. Ralph Ditter's photograph of an alleged UFO, taken in Zanesville, Ohio in 1966, was widely published in newspapers and magazines throughout the world. It has even appeared on the covers of major periodicals. But Mr. Ditter has never received a penny for it. To avoid a repetition of this, this photograph has been copyrighted in Ronnie's name and all moneys from the sale of it will go directly to him. We are now trying to set up an arrangement so that interested ufologists may obtain original colour prints for a nominal fee.

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TURNING POINT

R. H. B. Winder

ON July 29, 1968, in Washington, D.C., the Committee on Science and Astronautics of the United States House of Representatives held a Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects, under the Chairmanship of the Hon. J. Edward Roush, Representative for Indiana. Many members of this important and influential committee, which controls government expenditure on research, attended this informal session to hear and discuss submissions by eminent scientists, some of whom appeared in person, whilst others made written contributions.

The guests were: Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Professor of Astronomy at Northwestern University; Dr. James E. McDonald, Professor of Meteorology at the University of Arizona; Dr. Carl Sagain, Associate Professor of Astronomy at Cornell; Dr. Robert L. Hall, Professor of Sociology at the University of Illinois; Dr. James A. Harder, Associate Professor of Civil Engineering at the University of California; and Dr. Robert M. L. Baker, Jr., an Astronautical Engineer with the Computer Sciences Corporation.

Written contributions were submitted by Mr. Stanton T. Friedman, Nuclear Physicist; Dr. Donald H. Menzel, Professor of Practical Astronomy and Professor of Astrophysics at Harvard; Dr. Leo Sprinkle, Associate Professor of Psychology at the University of Wyoming; Dr. Garry C. Henderson, Senior Research Scientist (Space Sciences) with the Fort Worth Division of General Dynamics; Dr. Roger N. Shepard, Professor of Psychology at Stamford; and Dr. Frank B. Salisbury, Head of the Plant Science Department of Utah State University.

The spectrum of this galaxy of talent ranges, as most of you will know, from strongly pro-UFO to pronounced antagonism. However, in the absence of the greatest antagonist, who was asked only to submit his views in writing, there was little argument and the symposium succeeded remarkably well in its main purpose, which was to inform the committee of the present state of the art and to recommend future policy. Criticism of the Air Force and of Colorado was also excluded. Sceptics may maintain that the dice were loaded and militants may regret a lost opportunity for a crack at the Air Force, but those who think about it will realise that our subject has undoubtedly received enormous benefit and has acquired considerable prestige from this calm, sensible, and informative discussion, of high quality, between powerful politicians and eminent investigators.

Possible outcome of Symposium

The eventual outcome will almost certainly be more government funding for UFO research, with consequent increasing penetration of the field by professionals. This may alarm some amateurs who envisage themselves being trampled underfoot by the hordes of the scientific establishment. They may take comfort from the fact that the basic data of the subject springs not from experiment but from ordinary people and cannot be monopolised. The amateur will therefore always have an important role to play in its collection, transmission and evaluation. He may also reflect that it is by no means certain that the subject is entirely amenable to solution by standard experimental scientific method. Nevertheless, there is no doubt that this discussion marks a turning point in the history of our subject; henceforth many things are not going to be quite the same as they were.

The immediate outcome is the official record of the session, which is being made available to the public.* It is a most important document; mandatory reading for all students and newcomers, as well as the rest of us. It contains not only significant arguments and opinions, but masses of valuable information, many well-validated sighting reports, and hundreds of references to relevant literature. It carries sufficient prestige to be waved impressively in the faces of the most eminent sceptics and is of a convenient size and weight for beating the heads of dogmatic antagonists incapable of responding to any other treatment.

Revealing discussions

The formal contributions to the symposium were extremely erudite and the discussions that followed them often quite revealing. For example, following Dr. Hynek's warning of increasing public dissatisfaction with previous official treatment of the subject, he was asked by the Hon. George P. Miller, who is normally Chairman of the full Science and Astronautics Committee and conscious of his hold on the purse strings, whether he thought that the scientific establishment could now be persuaded to encourage UFO research without waiting for government initiative—meaning money. Dr. Hynek tapped the ball smartly back into his court by replying to the effect that government funds were needed and that a large number of scientists were already on the launching pad (I nearly said bandwagon) waiting only for that kind of fuel. He went on to say that the problem was a global one and asked for an approach to be made to the United Nations for assistance in organising world-wide collection of data.

Outspoken

Dr. McDonald was, characteristically, even more outspoken. He repeated his contention that the extraterrestrial hypothesis was to him the most likely to be correct. He strongly supported Dr. Hynek's plea for a many-fronted attack on the problem and stressed its widespread nature. He did not shrink from suggesting that the great New York electricity blackout might have been attributable to UFOs, saying that the pulse of current that started it all, at the Ontario Hydro Commission plant, has never been satisfactorily explained.

He listed several relevant sightings. He very nearly got an opportunity to have a go at Colorado and managed to say that the government should do a lot more, before the Chairman intervened to say that the National Academy of Sciences would eventually be publishing an evaluation of the Colorado project so would everyone please leave it at that.

Dr. Sagan confirmed the high probability of intelligent life existing elsewhere in the Universe and agreed that UFOs are not impossible, but he warned of the immense distances involved and touched on the intense emotional factors that can be evoked by the subject to influence people irrationally in favour of the idea of visiting extraterrestrials. He also suggested, not without justification, that the symposium was somewhat biased in favour of the subject. Nevertheless, he also advocated further UFO research, and more work in his own field of radio communication through space.

Circulation of information advocated

The sociologist, Dr. Hall, was very interesting. He examined the hypothesis that UFO sightings arose from popular belief, were without foundation in fact, and were propagated by mass hysteria. He used multiple witness cases and specific examples of particularly reliable witnesses to demonstrate that the idea was improbable. He also touched on the oft-repeated contention that suggestions of extraterrestrial origin might lead to panic, and repeated the sociologists' opinion that panic is only induced when implausible assurances are given in place of reliable information. He accordingly advocated the unhindered circulation of all available information and the intensification of research.

Questions of propulsion

Dr. Harder's highly technical contribution, concerned mainly with propulsion, interested me particularly, because he invokes the Faraday Effect as an explanation of the concentric rings seen around a UFO by a witness, Wells Alan Webb, wearing "Polaroid" spectacles. I mentioned in my "Design" articles that this effect should occur if strong magnetic fields are involved. He also commented on the exceptionally pure magnesium samples obtained at Ubatuba in Brazil, suggesting that they may have been the basis of a high-strength material.

Dr. Baker's contribution is highly commended to all photo analysts. His account of his examination of the Utah and Montana films, and his conclusion that neither is explicable in ordinary terms, is most impressive and an example to us all. He made detailed technical recommendations for setting up UFO detection teams and equipment and for improving the examination of witnesses and their testimonies. He cites one examination of a seemingly unreliable witness that just about stripped the poor fellow bare, both physically and psychologically and, I suspect, cured him of seeing flying saucers for the rest of his natural life!

The ensuing discussion of detection methods confirmed the point, already known to us, that the great radar defence systems of the United States do frequently detect unexplained objects but take no notice of them, the associated computers being programmed to reject anything that is not either in orbit or in a ballistic trajectory. One of Dr. Baker's recommendations, strongly supported by his colleagues, was the modification of programmes so that UFOs would be recorded in future.

Written contributions

Friedman and Sprinkle both wrote strongly in favour of extraterrestrial origin, the former maintaining, as an expert, that fusion power associated with hydromagnetics makes flying saucers and interstellar flight possible; the latter basing his views largely on two personal sightings. Dr. Sprinkle is also interested in the psychical aspects of some witnesses' experiences. Shepard, like Sprinkle, advocated psychological examination of witnesses.

Henderson called for determined efforts to develop and apply instruments to the detection of UFOs. In his conclusions he said that, if they do exist, he doubted that they could be manned, thus reflecting the curious reticence about the Humanoids exhibited by many American investigators, not least those participating in the symposium; except for Salisbury who referred to the Zamora and Gill sightings. Perhaps the others felt that the Science and Astronautics Committee, despite its obvious enlightenment, was not yet ready to stomach the idea that someone else is already doing what they and the Russians are spending so much to achieve in space. It is, after all, terribly embarrassing to discover that you are last when you thought that you were first. Almost as bad as not being invited to the symposium.

* Available under the title SYMPOSIUM ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS, **Hearings before the Committee on Science and Astronautics, U.S. House of Representatives,** 90th Congress, 2nd Session—July 29, 1968. The price is $3, and applications, quoting catalogue number PB179541, should be made to: The Clearinghouse for Federal Scientific and Technical Information, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22151, U.S.A.

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UFOs AND COMMERCIAL AIR TRAFFIC

Part 3 Project

David Brobeck Jr.

Our contributor, who lives in San Diego, California, is a student at law school

IN the first part of this article I described a hypothetical case in which an unknown craft had been observed by radar operators to close with an American Airlines' 727 jet, which was later discovered wrecked. Mary Doe, surviving wife and heir of passenger John Doe, filed a complaint in the United States District Court in San Diego, naming American Airlines, the United States Government and the Pacific Fidelity Insurance Company as co-defendants. In the second part, the U.S. Government's position, in that the Air Force investigatory Project Blue Book was involved, was discussed.

FAA liability

What about the liability of the Federal Aviation Agency? Might a court of law construe their actions in allowing Flight 211 to depart as scheduled as a breach of a duty owed the plaintiff?; if so, their negligence is apparent. Clearly there are no official regulations requiring a controller to refuse take-off permission to a pilot where UFOs have been reported recently over an area included in his flight plan. There are, however, certain obligations which arise by Federal regulation and what might be called the "reasonable man" standard. Certain sections of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958 place a *duty* upon controllers to warn pilots not to take off when there are prevailing adverse conditions.[30] This regulation, among others, was emphasised by U.S. District Court Judge Kunzel in the recent (1967) case of *Stork v. U.S.*, decided here in San Diego. In that litigation, twenty-eight consolidated cases were brought against the United States for deaths and injuries sustained in a 1961 Ohio airplane crash which wiped out the entire football squad of California State Polytechnic College. In concluding that the controllers were guilty of negligence in a high degree, Judge Kunzel made the following observation: "The controllers owed a duty of care to the passengers . . ."[31]

Another 1967 case in point is *Ingram v. Eastern Air Lines, Inc. v. United States.* The Court, in commenting upon this duty owed to passengers by controllers, makes a public policy argument which seems entirely applicable to the case under discussion, and relevant to both FAA *and* Air Force liability:

> "Our conclusion . . . is in tune with the heavy degree of reliance which passengers place upon the government for insuring the safety of their flights. While air travel in this jet age has become commonplace, we know too well that there is always lurking the possibility of tragic accidents capable of snuffing out the lives of hundreds in a mere matter of seconds. Much of the success in preventing such disasters can be given to the federal government's assumption of the supervision of commercial flying; . . . public confidence in air travel has been fostered in large measure by knowledge that our government, recognising the high stakes involved, is *constantly overseeing the carrier's operations in order to promote safety*"[32] (italics mine).

Liability was imposed on the FAA in this case because the controllers involved breached their duty to the passengers.

Responsible agents defined

Writing in a recent issue of the *Journal of Air Law and Commerce*, P. B. Larsen advocates a "proof of fault system" for persons alleging negligence on the part of the Air Traffic Control.[33] The system would not, however, work a hardship on injured plaintiffs since it would not operate to limit the liability of the ATC. Basically, the suggested system would further define the responsible agents of the ATC, thus giving the plaintiff a spectrum of possibilities upon which to base his difficult court procedure. It is important to note that the wider definitions proposed, though not presently set out in an official FAA regulation, nevertheless exist to varying extents in the present services offered by the ATC. The article lists eight such "definitions", and at least three of these are germane to this discussion of FAA liability. The first of these is the "Air Traffic Advisory Service". It provides reliable information about *collision danger*. The "Alerting Service" is the division which would sound the alert *whenever an emergency situation arose*, and the third category, "Airport Facilities", involves *dangerous conditions* which may interfere with the orderly flow of traffic. The emphasis provided to key words in each of the above divisions is my own; the relevancy of each to the case under discussion seems apparent, making further explanation unnecessary.

A final consideration in deciding whether liability could reasonably be imposed against the FAA, is the official federal regulation which defines the primary objective of the Air Traffic Control Service. Such a provision is in essence the standard that is required of every controller at all times. The foreword to this regulation states that "controllers on duty are expected to use their best judgment." The basic objective of ATC, as stated, is:—

> "*to promote the safe*, orderly, and expeditious *movement of air traffic. This shall include:* (1) Aiding pilots in *preventing collisions* between aircraft and *between aircraft and obstructions on the movement area;* and (3) assisting the person in command of an aircraft by providing such advice and information as may be useful for the safe and efficient conduct of the flight"[34] (italics mine).

It is not clear whether a series of reports of UFOs approaching airliners on a near-collision course during a relatively short period and over a specific area would constitute a danger sufficient to require that FAA controllers take some affirmative action. This situation would most probably arise where a local ATC facility fails to follow the recognised procedures of contacting the nearest military air base.

Once the Air Force does receive proper notification of a sighting by ATC, there is a definite shift of responsibility; should an airline company inquire as to the possible threat represented by a series of concentrated sightings, as I have suggested, the Air Force has the burden of advising that airline one way or another. If no reply is forthcoming, or the reply is a mere echo of the "no threat to our national security" policy that has remained steadfast for the past twenty-one years, the liability would in all certainty fall more heavily upon the Air Force than the FAA—although both are in essence the same defendant. If the situation developed that Project Blue Book officials, because of the small amount of time before the scheduled departure of other flights over the area (and the impossibility of an immediate and satisfactory investigation), delegated the authority for the decision to the local ATC chief controller, any action taken by that individual would be closely scrutinised by the courts in the light of the federal regulations and recent cases previously mentioned. It is always possible that a total cancellation of flights may be unnecessary; re-routing all flights around the area of the sightings until an investigation can be undertaken would seem a logical alternative.

In seeking to prove that the Air Force or FAA officials were in fact negligent, the plaintiff must show that these individuals failed to use ordinary care; such care is generally characterised as that which a "reasonably prudent man" would use under the same or similar circumstances, not the beliefs or standards of the individual at fault at the time he acted or did not act. In determining the standard of care, it must be shown that there was a breach of a duty owed to the person injured.

Duty owed by Air Force

As a general principle, all persons have a duty to use ordinary skill and care to avoid dangers which might cause injury to the person or property of another. If the Project Blue Book investigators acted as reasonable men in their position would have acted after learning of the nature of the sightings which occurred in this case, they clearly should not be liable. It is significant to note in this regard that the U.S. Government, as pointed out previously, has a responsibility to the travelling public for establishing and maintaining air traffic safety measures; the reliance placed thereon, as brought out in the opinion in the *Ingram* case, is of some importance in allocating liability. The duty owed by the Air Force thus seems somewhat greater than that owed by an ordinary person; the skill and care utilised might be examined more strictly. It should be pointed out that custom generally does not determine the standard of care, and thus past procedures or policies would not necessarily offer a defence to ATC or Project Blue Book employees.

The burden of proof is naturally with the plaintiff, and she must show the negligence of the defendants by a preponderance of the evidence, i.e. that it is "more probable than not" they were negligent. It is not entirely clear whether the U.S. Government should be charged with "simple" or "gross" negligence; it seems unlikely, however, that their acts would be construed as amounting to criminal negligence, i.e. a total disregard for the rights of others.

Assuming that the airline company heard of the previous sightings and made timely inquiry, they would seem to be free from any active negligence, and the subsequent action or non-action by FAA or Air Force officials might be considered as intervening and superseding in the chain of causation. If the airline had knowledge of the sightings but makes no inquiry, or fails to brief its pilot or crew as to the location and characteristics of the reported objects, it may be subjecting itself to a lesser degree of negligence and face some liability. The factual possibilities which could occur in such a situation are innumerable—but none of those suggested here should be considered as too remote.

Position of insurance company

I included an insurance company as a co-defendant in my hypothetical case only for the purpose of briefly discussing the typical airline trip insurance policy, and whether a beneficiary named in such a policy could recover where it appeared that a UFO had been the direct or indirect cause of the crash. An examination of this type of a policy reveals that regardless of the company issuing it, all have a number of features in common; they are non-renewable, covering a one-way flight aboard a scheduled air carrier, and generally contain indemnification provisions for specific types of personal injuries suffered. Virtually all of the policies, including the one included in the Appendix of this paper, have a standard exclusionary clause which reads as follows: "This insurance shall not cover death, dismemberment, loss of sight or other loss caused by . . . war or any act of war."[35]

Where causation was clearly attributable to a UFO, an insurance company might argue that such a "deliberate" act constituted an "act of war" within the meaning of its policy's exclusionary clause. Although many UFOs seem to demonstrate a low form of intelligence in their flight characteristics and seemingly inquisitive manoeuvres, there has never been any evidence of hostile actions in the thousands of reliable sightings reported to date—and no nation or territory on earth has been exempt from their visitations. Even if there were such cases, and the apparent hostile nature of the objects could be proven in a court of law, it is doubtful whether the acts would be construed as "acts of war" since the prime requisite would seem to be the involvement of a recognised power or government—and most importantly, sapient beings, preferably *homo sapiens*.

One case which arose out of an insurance policy "act of war" exclusion involved the sinking of the British liner "Lusitania" by a German submarine.[36] "War" has been defined to be that state in which a nation prosecutes its right by force. As used in an insurance policy with the kind of exclusion mentioned here, such phrase means "death or injury as a consequence of war or rebellion carried on by authority of some *de facto* government."[37] Recent cases have limited the scope of such clauses, even holding that the death of a U.S. Navy seaman resulting from the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour did not occur in time of "war".[38] In every reported case, the requisite for recovery has been the involvement of at least two nations, or as the *Welts* case

says, "*de facto* governments." In short, if a UFO directly or indirectly caused an airliner to crash, it could no more be considered an act of war than if a flock of birds had collided with the plane and brought about the same result.

Conclusion

Throughout this discussion, I have endeavoured to emphasise one important point, i.e. that this hypothetical series of events, including the resulting litigation, could take place in the foreseeable future. The well-documented instances of UFO-airliner "near-misses," the Air Force's continuing policies reflecting an attitude bordering on unconcern, and the FAA's lack of definite procedural guidelines in such a situation are only a few of the factors previously mentioned. If a case developed which was identical, or nearly so, to the situation which I have outlined here, it is my belief that the United States Government would indeed face some degree of liability.

Congressional pressure following the wave of "saucer" sightings in 1966 led to the establishment of the Air Force-sponsored "independent" UFO Study at the University of Colorado. Such an investigation by a team of qualified scientists seemed a significant step toward a greater understanding of the UFO phenomenon. However, it is the firm belief of this writer that our Department of the Air Force and Federal Aviation Agency should act now to institute a new and realistic evaluation of their present policies on UFO investigatory procedures. The age of the massive supersonic transports is forthcoming, and as the number of jetliners in the skies at any given moment is increasing, so are the number of UFO sightings. The time for some affirmative and preventive measures is now.

* * * * *

NOTES

30 *Federal Aviation Act of* 1958, sec. 307 (a), 601 (b), 49 U.S.C.A. sec. 1348 (a), 1421 (b).
31 *Stork v. United States*, 278 F. Supp. 869, 881 (1967).
32 *Ingram v. Eastern Air Lines, Inc. v. United States*, 373 F.2d 227, 235-236, (2nd Cir. 1967).
33 "Air Traffic Control: A Recommendation for a Proof of Fault System Without a Limitation on Liability." P. B. Larsen. *Journal of Air Law and Commerce*, Vol. 32, Winter 1966, pp. 3-23.
34 *ANC/PCAT* (Procedures for controlling air traffic) *Manual*, sec. 1.0300 (1), (3). (see Appendix for copy of regulation).
35 Policy provision of Fedelity and Casualty Company of New York; *Scheduled Air Carrier (Airline) Trip Insurance*. (see Appendix for copy.)
36 *Vanderbilt v. Travelers' Ins. Co.*, 184 N.Y.S. 54, 55, 112 Misc. 248.
37 *Welts v. Connecticut Mut. Life Ins. Co.*, 48 N.Y. 34, 40, 8 Am. Rep. 518.
38 *West v. Palmetto State Life Ins. Co.*, 25 S.E. 2d 475, 477, 202 S.C. 422, 145 A.L.R. 1461.

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CONFRONTATION AT LINS

Gordon Creighton

ACCORDING to press cuttings which I have received from Brazil (an unspecified newspaper of September 14, and *O Dia* of Rio de Janeiro for October 5), the strange woman encountered by Maria José Cintra at the sanatorium near Lins on August 27, 1968,* is described as having a friendly face, and as wearing "*a hood* (*capuz*) *over her head and silvery-coloured clothing, like a spacesuit*".

Sr. Aurélio Galo and his wife, Dona Itália Galo, stated to the press that the object seen by them at 6.45 a.m. on August 27 was very clearly visible, and was flying from north to south. It was emitting flashes of silvery light, and its under part was of a silvery opaque colour. They could also see, very clearly, two objects like antennae protruding from it.

A number of other residents of the Vila Junqueira suburb also told the press that they had seen it, but were unwilling to give their names as they "knew that few would believe them".

UFO confronts excavator

Meanwhile, according to *O Dia* of October 5, there has been yet another very interesting happening at Lins.

At 6.20 a.m. on October 2, a 41-year-old employee of the Lins Municipality named Doribio Pereira was about to start his morning work driving a caterpillar-type mechanical excavator. As he was standing on the caterpillar tread, engaged in putting oil and water in the engine, he was astonished to behold suddenly, right in front of him, at a distance of only a few feet and no more than a foot or so from the ground, a strange cigar-shaped craft, of a most beautiful golden colour. The next minute he caught sight of a strange person who drew from his sleeve a weapon shaped something like an electric drill. He pointed this weapon at Doribio Pereira and it emitted a strang bright flash "just like when you take a picture at night". The flash totally immobilised the witness, who felt himself glued as it were to the spot where he was standing on his excavator, unable to shout or speak.

He was however able to watch the strange beings and their craft. On the under part of the "cigar" there was a platform, on which three of the crew were standing, and he was also able to see into the machine, "as its roof was of glass". Inside he could see one being operating a sort of typewriter, using both hands. Of the beings on the platform outside, one, in front of him, was looking at the engine of the excavator while another, on the right from where he stood, was using a conch-shaped object to remove a sample of soil from the cut where the excavator had been working, and he was doing this without leaving the platform. They were working as though automatically, without gestures and, so far as he could detect, without speaking to each other, and from time to time they were entering into the cigar through a doorway in its front part, through which the witness was able to see four backless stools, set separately from each other.

The craft was now making ready to leave, and flashed a very vivid light three times. The platform below was taken in, as well as another cone-shaped part, and there appeared, underneath, a thing "like a sort of electric polisher, revolving at great speed." The machine then took off, making a very slight sound, in the direction of Guaiçara. "Its flight was like that of a duck: very smooth and low at first, and then putting on great speed." Climbing rapidly, it was soon lost to sight in the sky.

A state of shock

Doribio Pereira now felt himself able to move. But he found it impossible to run, as he wished, so he had to walk as far as the nearest road, where he was soon picked up by a passing motorist friend named Ezequiel, who took him straight home.

Doribio's wife was shocked by his shaken appearance and pallor and at once gave him a cup of mint-tea to drink. Then, still in a very nervous state, he went to the Town Council offices. The Municipal Prefect, Sr. Rubens Furquim, hearing from his staff about the case, came out of his office and, seeing him in such a condition, ordered that he be given a glass of milk and a sedative, for he was "whiter than a corpse".

Returning to the place where his excavator was, he found that the soil there had been moved by someone. Five of his workmates (all named in the *O Dia* report) had seen some marks left there by the cigar-shaped craft, but these marks were now no longer visible. (They were scrape marks on the face of the hillock of earth that he had been removing.)

Entities described

When questioned by the police as to the sort of clothing that the strange beings were wearing, Doribio Pereira said that they "*had clothing like a saint, down to the knees, and on their heads a hood* (*capuz*); the sleeves were loose, and the colour of the clothing was blue with sparkling reddish reflections." On their feet he said "they wore sandals open at the front so that their toes were visible. The colour of the sandals was dark brown, and they had narrow bands tied round their legs up as far as the knees, like the ancient Romans."

He said the beings had eyes, noses and mouths. He did not see whether they possessed teeth, as they were working in total silence and did not open their mouths.

* See Nigel Rimes' article *Another Hospital Visited* on page 4.

Their height was around 1 metre 65 cms. (5ft. 5in.) and they were more or less of lean build.

Medical tests and solitary confinement

At the request of the Chief of Police, Doribio was sent for a medical examination by a physician, Dr. Antônio Geris. The doctor talked to him for a long time, asked questions and gave him various tests, and concluded that he was entirely normal.

In the meantime the Police authorities had been in touch with the Brazilian Air Force, and by the time Doribio got back to Police Headquarters from the doctor's surgery, orders had been received to hold him in solitary confinement until two military men arrived.

The report concludes by saying that at the time of writing Doribio Pereira was still being held incommunicado somewhere in Lins. Meanwhile, the whole of Lins is agog with talk of UFOs and meetings with entities, and the public remembers the case of Maria José Cintra who, only a few weeks previously, had been asked for water by a strange woman, strangly garbed and speaking an incomprehensible language, and also *wearing a hood* (*capuz*).

THE ALDEBURGH PLATFORM

THE *Daily Mirror* of August 8, 1968, contained an interesting short letter from a Mr. A. E. Whiteland of Saxmundham, Suffolk, about an extraordinary phenomenon seen by his mother some time about the middle of the First World War, i.e. 1916 or 1917, writes Gordon Creighton.

I at once got in touch with Mr. Whiteland, and the following is the remarkable account which he has sent me—an account of something that must surely have been a brief glimpse of another sort of reality or of something from another world or time, and very like the American happenings of 1897:

"My mother (now aged 84) has often told the following story over the years, and I would like to find out for her who these mystery men were and what they were doing.

"This is the story. It was about the middle of World War I, and on a weekday. Mother was living then at Aldeburgh, Suffolk. She had gone upstairs just before the midday dinner, and opened a casement window and looked out to see who might be on the road. Having looked both ways and noticed that nobody was in sight, she was about to step back when something urged her to look again (see sketch).

"A little above the level of the house, at a height of about 30ft., eight to twelve men appeared, on what seemed to be a round platform with a handrail around it. This they were gripping tightly.

"She could see them so clearly. They were wearing blue uniforms and little round hats, not unlike sailors' hats.

"She heard no sound from the machine as it came off the nearby marshes. It turned a bit, and went over the railway yard, to disappear behind some houses.

"My mother is unable to give a date, month or year, as it is now such a long time back. All she can say is that it was on a bright day, and on a Thursday, because Thursday has been her day for "doing out" the bedrooms for all her married life.

"The time was close to 12 o'clock noon. When she first caught sight of this platform with men on it coming towards her, it was about 100 yards distant, at about roof-height, and seemed to have come over the Marsh Gate. This was a five-barred gate with a smaller one beside it for the footpath, and a few railings with a fairly large house on the left as seen from where Mother was at the bedroom window.

"The thing came straight along the road, and then when she thought it was going to pass her house (one of a terraced block of six), it suddenly turned away at right angles from her and went between the Railway Hotel and the sheds on either side of the railway yard. The shed opposite the house was maybe 23 to 25ft. high; it was two-storeyed, and hay was stored in the upper part, and the thing just cleared its roof, from what Mother said.

"She says the number of men was between 8 and 12, and she is certain it was nearer 12, as they stood around on this circular platform, holding tightly on to the handrail. The rail was of brass, and a second rail, also of brass, was at the height of the men's knees. As she was trying so hard to take it all in, she cannot say of what material the platform seemed to be made. She says: 'It made me think of a bathing-raft'. These were the type of rafts used in the sea at that time, about 12 feet across and six-sided, so that people could dive off them. (This is not to say that the 'platform' was six-sided, but just to give an idea of its size). Mother thought that the thickness or depth of the 'platform' was about 12 to 12in.

"The men were dressed in blue, with round blue hats (round without any stiffening) pulled tightly on to their heads. They stood shoulder to shoulder looking straight outwards, with ordinary faces like us, but staring straight ahead.

"Mother says that she kept wondering what was making the thing move, and looked up in the sky and then at the men and then in between their legs to see if there was an engine there in the middle, but she could see nothing there. There was nothing in the middle, just a hollow, with the men around the sides.

"I asked her about noise, or anything that she might have heard. She says there was no sound at all. 'It just came along straight, not up or down or anything, till it turned away and over the top of the roof of the shed and away over the railway-station yard and straight towards Aldeburgh Lodge and the trees, ¼-mile away. It kept getting smaller, and went behind the trees or the house. If they had not been in the way, I would have seen it go right out to sea.

"The whole occurrence lasted

for about five minutes or so, as Mother says the platform moved as fast as a man can run.

"When Father returned in the evening, Mother told him of her strange experience. He commented: 'They might have been Germans. All kinds of things are being done now. There's a War on, so I'd forget it!'

"There were plenty of soldiers, coastguards, and ordinary people about, and she was puzzled to find that nobody else ever spoke of having seen it. (Had it happened half an hour later, there would have been many men actually on the road, returning to their homes to dinner.)

"Next morning she did tell neighbours about it. One man said there were rumours that the German airships (the Zeppelins) had men who spied on the country-side. After that, it seems that she never spoke again about it until after the War was over, when she began telling her children and friends of her weird experience. And she has been wondering, and is still wondering, what it was that she saw . . ."

The Milakovic Report (*from page 3*)

did not go near the airfield and, from the way we left Hanbury, it seems unlikely that he would have passed it on the return trip either. From this it appears that he had forgotten the exact route that he took to Hanbury and, a fairly safe assumption, the exact location of the sighting. We are satisfied that the location of the sighting was *not* the airfield because of Mr. Mila-kovic's assertion that he *thought* it was an airfield simply because he at first thought the object was an *aircraft;* he did *not* see the hangar at the same time as the object.

The situation is frustrating for us because Mr. Milakovic does not think it necessary to make another trip to Hanbury as he maintains he took us to the right place, although he still can't account for the fact that there was no house there. Mr. Milakovic is, incidentally, a strong-willed person and nothing will make him change his mind once he has made it up on some particular point. Slavic, who accompanied them, will not say much for fear of offending his father.

Mrs. Milakovic, however, holds out most hope for the future as she maintains that they did not go to or from Hanbury by the exact route that *we* took and, more promising, that she would definitely recognise the house if she saw it again. More-over she mentioned that, because they were lost, they had to ask directions from an elderly couple who lived in a white cottage about four miles from Hanbury; we believe we have located this cottage although there was no one in when we called.

Problems

On two occasions we have arranged to take Mrs. Milakovic to Hanbury; the first time she was unexpectedly out on business and on the second the family had just become involved in a domestic crisis which is in no way connected with the sighting.

We have decided to suspend investigations until Mrs. Milakovic gets in touch with us again—which she has promised to do.

In the meantime one of the co-authors of this report has been making enquiries in Hanbury and the surrounding district, but no one can remember seeing anything unusual at any time. Police at Draycott-in-the-Clay, the nearest village to Hanbury, could not help and neither could the police at Uttoxeter, the nearest large town, although both were very co-opera-tive. Similarly the press in Uttoxeter, Burton - on - Trent, Lichfield and Rugeley could offer nothing, and neither could staff at the airfield. It seems that a light aircraft landed at about the time but this could not possibly have been what was seen by the Milakovics.

As a point of interest both Mr. and Mrs. Milakovic have watches which, since the sighting, have been running slow; suggesting, perhaps, that they could have been magne-tised. We have not been able to check their car for residual magneti-sation.

Finally, two more 'phone calls have been received from the "Students" at Lichfield, and we have asked Mrs. Milakovic to try to obtain their address next time they call; in each case they wanted to make arrangements for another photographic trip, but to date nothing has materialised.

Postscript by Wilfred Daniels

Milin Milakovic said, and his wife concurred, that as the object moved off after hovering about five minutes over the building it went in a series of jerks (he made a side-ways, spasmodic movement of his hand palm downwards to illustrate this) and as it went away it was climbing steadily.

Milakovic gives the impression of having plenty of physical cour-age, but nevertheless that "jerking" progression quite unnerved him, and he hustled his wife and son into their car and left the scene in a hurry.

CONDON REPORTS . . .

The report of the USAF-sponsored Colorado University UFO Investigation was published on January 9, 1969. To date we have seen only newspaper comments on its contents, but it seems our warnings were not in vain. The report is a damp squib, negative, long and tedious (1,480 pages), an exercise to underline the recom-mendations of the Robertson Committee of 1953. We hear too that there are several innuendoes against indivi-duals in this 'scientific' report: what more could be expected of the authors of the notorious 'trick' memo-randum? More in our next.

UFOs AND BALL LIGHTNING

Anthony Durham

This article is based on a lecture delivered to the BUFORA Northern Regional Conference in Liverpool on November 4, 1967. A fuller version, with a complete list of references is available.

AT long last UFOs are becoming legitimate objects of scientific interest. Professional scientists are realising that there is "paydirt" beneath the mountains of rubbish. I want to show that it can be found not only amongst the residue of genuine unexplained incidents but also in the very rare natural phenomena that must be invoked to explain some reports.

Imagine a car being vengefully followed along a dark road by a glowing football; or a globe of fire swooping down from the sky to remain stationary near the ground, and then exploding; or a silent sphere of light floating through a closed window into a room, before the eyes of a terrified witness. All these, and many thousands more, are genuine examples of ball lightning. It is not far from them to several UFO reports I have heard: a "toy balloon" that drifted lazily over some trees near Woodbridge; or an irregularly edged rectangle of glowing coals that floated softly behind some houses at Stroud; or a ball of fire that fell from a cloud near Cheam and exploded with a loud bang.

Similarities

No one can ever be sure that a particular UFO report was definitely caused by ball lightning, but a significant number have all the right characteristics. Even more have great similarities, but would not fit precisely with what is known about the phenomenon at present. Perhaps anything between one and five per cent of all UFO reports fall into this category. I am at present engaged in a project to collect accounts of ball-lightning-like objects and would be very grateful for any that readers could send me. So here are the details of what lightning balls are believed to look like.

Appearance. Ball lightning is generally spherical or ellipsoidal, but sometimes cylindrical, about as bright as domestic light bulbs. Usually they are uniformly bright and of a single colour all over, but sometimes the centre may be brighter than the edge, or vice versa. All colours have been reported, with white and reddish orange the most common. Their size is generally a matter of inches, but a small proportion are up to several feet across. A variety of "electrical" noises have been reported, such as hissing, crackling or buzzing, and close encounters frequently give a smell of ozone. Accounts by witnesses will always be distorted by perceptual inaccuracies and often by sheer fright.

Motion. Occasionally the tip of a lightning flash may actually be seen descending from the cloud. Appropriately this is called Rocket Lightning, and it can perhaps be regarded as a descending lightning ball. Balls of fire may often be seen running or rolling along metal surfaces, particularly aircraft: this too is an allied phenomenon, more familiar as St. Elmo's Fire. Most of the cases of ball lightning that are significant as UFO reports move freely in the air, regularly or irregularly, horizontally or vertically, with, or sometimes against, the wind, and at speeds less than 50 m.p.h. They may appear to spin or pulsate. Closed spaces seem to have a bizarre attraction for ball lightning: cases are on record of them coming down chimneys, squeezing through a keyhole, flying through a closed window, and even entering under a woman's petticoat! They are usually only seen to last a few seconds, but a small proportion persist for minutes. They end either with a loud bang or by abruptly disappearing, not by gradually fading away.

Occurrence. The majority of ball lightnings are preceded by a lightning flash, when their cause is immediately apparent. These seem to form near the foot of a lightning path to ground. However, the cases that give rise to UFO reports are more likely to be either when there is no lightning flash, or else when it is not seen. Quite a few are seen just floating freely in the air, some even in relatively clear weather. Most bizarre of all are those reports associated not with any electrical disturbance, but with a natural disaster like an earthquake. There seem to be no grounds for predicting where and when ball lightning will occur, except that obviously it is more common where there are more thunderstorms. The old adage that lightning never strikes twice in the same place is rubbish; high buildings, tall trees and high ground attract more than their share of lightning flashes.

It used to be thought that ball lightning was a very rare phenomenon. However, in one survey carried out on the subject, witnesses who had seen one or more lightning balls, were asked how many times they had seen lightning strike the ground. The two occurrences turn out to be about equally frequent. Now, it is known that in England, for example, there is one lightning ground strike for about every half a square kilometre per year. In other words, in Britain every year there must be something of the order of one hundred thousand occurrences of ball lightning.

What is rare is not the fact of a lightning ball forming, but rather the fact of someone being there to observe it. Some people whose occupations take them out of doors in the right places, such as pilots, have seen the phenomenon many times over. If all these mysterious globes of fire are being formed, some of them must

assuredly be reported as UFOs. Many of them must be hidden away in our files unrecognised. Where are all these UFO reports?

Theories

There have been many theories to explain ball lightning, but only two stand up to examination. One involves chemical combustion, the other a direct current electrical discharge. The first supposes that a very low concentration of an inflammable gas is in the air, when a lightning discharge ignites it: little balls of flame form and dart about. This theory is inelegant, but it has been demonstrated in the laboratory. The second theory supposes that a highly charged thundercloud has not yet reached the point where it can produce the usual lightning flash. If, beneath it, there is a localised patch of air that is electrically different from the rest, then the electrical lines of force may preferentially pass through there and cause a localised breakdown of the air. A corona discharge may form in this region—something less than a full-scale spark, but rather similar in principle to a Neon sign. Going into the theory in detail and solving the mathematical equations predicts spherical or ellipsoidal shapes, with characteristics very like those actually observed. The beauty of this theory is that it can account satisfactorily for all the well-established properties of the phenomenon, and can probably be modified slightly if necessary.

Understanding of ball lightning has progressed a long way even since Maxwell Cade wrote about it in these pages. It is beginning to become possible to distinguish several different categories of the phenomenon. It would be a triumph if UFO research could contribute something to a further understanding of ball lightning.

THE 1897 STORY Part 3

Jerome Clark and Lucius Farish

ON April 23, 1897, on a farm in Burton township near Flint, Daniel Gray heard a rumbling, whizzing sound over his head. For a few seconds he could see a dark object flashing away, and then, even before he was able to regain his composure, something fell from the sky and thudded into the ground near him. When he picked it up, he found that it was a Toronto, Canada, newspaper dated October 5, 1896, dry and in almost perfect condition.

An airship was observed at Omer on the 24th, and on the same date the South Haven *Sentinel* noted, "So many people have seen the noted airship that has been flitting for the last two weeks back and forth over South Haven, it would take much space to give all their names."

Cigar-shaped objects

Two residents of Freeland, Leonard and Henry Krause, viewed an unknown object on the evening of the 25th. At Sidaw, a resident related his experience of the 26th to the Marquette *Mining Journal:* "I was taking a short walk before retiring for the night. As a rule, I am a person who retires early, but this night I happened to be out late. It was about 11 o'clock.

"I happened to cast my eyes upward, and to my astonishment I saw three large lights, red, green and white. When I first noticed the strange object, it seemed to be over Booth's mill, and was sailing in a south-easterly direction. It was going, perhaps, sixty miles an hour. I was near the Nester estate warehouse at the time, and before I could get anyone else to the site, the ship had disappeared from view.

"It was a bright night and I could plainly discern a cigar-shaped object and a basket below, somewhat resembling a street car. I should judge it was about 2,000 feet from the ground."

Two Dayton people, returning home at 2 a.m. from staying up with a sick neighbour, were startled by the appearance of a huge cigar with a lighted basket under it. In the light could be seen the forms of three human-looking occupants.

Occupants, music and a grappling hook!

Occupants also figure in a Holton story. On the night of the 29th, at 11.30, a huge lighted object came out of the north and slowed down, finally hovering over the bridge. People streamed out into the street to hear the sounds of revellers aboard the ship. Loud talk and music, "the like of which never was heard in this place," could be heard all during the craft's 55-minute appearance. The phenomenon itself measured 300ft., plus a 40ft. tail; in width and depth, about 90ft.

Just as the tail started to whirl, the beings dropped a grappling hook which caught one of the viewers on the ground. Then the ship flew away. The captured man returned from White Cloud the next day "and has been talking ever since about aerial navigation."

"Mysterious lights have been seen on Long Lake during the past week," the Grand Traverse *Herald* a bit enigmatically informed its readers.

And on May 1 the Saginaw *Evening News* related that a shoe of huge proportions, discovered on the railroad track near O'Donnell, Spencer & Co.'s plant, may have fallen from the airship.

* * * * *

Hints of a whole new dimension to the airship enigma, suggesting that it may have been a world-wide phenomenon rather than solely an American, have been furnished by aviation historian Dale M. Titler. The original manuscript of his *Wings of Mystery* serves as the source for the information which follows.

On July 11, 1897, Swedish aeronaut Salomon Auguste Andree, together with a crew of two, attempted to pilot a balloon from Spitzbergen across the North Pole to a mainland on the other side. In the wake of great public

interest in the venture, a number of sightings of a balloon-like object, believed to be one of Andree's, were made—but it later developed that Andree's balloon had been in none of the areas reporting sightings.

On July 17, a woman in a small Swedish town saw a balloon with drag ropes and a net. She said there was a man in the gondola.

The crew of the steamer *Kong Halfdan*, off Norway between Raugesund and Ryvarden on August 13, sighted a "big balloon" which passed so close that its drag ropes could be seen.

Siberian sighting

At Antsiferona, Siberia, on September 17, observers watched a "round object" for five minutes as it headed northwest.

"The night of September 26th, at half past two in the morning," wrote a Russian engineer, "I observed a balloon drifting rapidly southeast over the town of Yakovlevskaya. . . . The balloon had an electric (phosphorescent) sheen. It was visible for less than three minutes, disappearing rapidly over the horizon."

As Titler comments, "An *electric sheen? Rapidly* disappearing? Surely this wasn't Andree's balloon. But what other aerial craft could the engineer have described?"

What other aerial craft, indeed?

Some time during the summer (the date is not furnished) an Indian youth near Winnipeg, Canada, saw "an object resembling a balloon giving out a considerable amount of light. . . ." In August a woman and her daughter in Caribou, British Columbia, sighted a round object moving from west to east. As it approached, it grew larger and sank lower in the sky. Then the witnesses saw two shapes, one above the other, and the object shot upward over Quesnelle Lake and disappeared from sight.

"None of these last three objects could have been balloons—much less Andree's," Titler concludes. "They were something else."

Comment

1. With specific reference to the American 1897 reports, a word of caution is necessary. Two of the stories are rather suspect, we fear, and before they find a place in the literature of ufology, we feel that we had better outline our reasons for entertaining doubts about them.

First, the Reynolds, Michigan, landing of April 14. Our source is the Saginaw *Courier-Herald* for April 17, but the incident is also described in the Lansing *State Republican* for the same date; only the latter paper gives the date as the 17th (rather than as the 14th) and the location as Williamston. Otherwise, the account is the same, word for word, except where the *Herald* mentions "lots of people . . . from Morley and Howard City," the *Republican* refers to the same "from Okemos and Locke."

All of which leads one to suspect a journalistic hoax something like the Aurora, Texas, fiasco. It may be, however, that an irresponsible editor of the *Republican* got the story and gave it a more local base, changing the date to add to the sensation.

Nonetheless, we must be careful in studying the report for another reason; the description of the occupant certainly does not tally with those supplied in other accounts of the time. The 1897 ufonauts were quite human-like in appearance and size, and so a "monster" story will naturally be viewed with suspicion.

We do not necessarily urge rejection of the story, only very cautious consideration of it.

Secondly, one cannot help wondering if the Holton "merry-makers" of the 29th were some sort of newspaper joke. The story, which appeared in the April 30 Muskegon *Daily Chronicle*, is written in so trivial a manner that it tempts one to classify it with the many other satirical pieces that the airship inspired in contemporary newspapers. Notice, for example, how the writer treats the abduction of a Holton citizen: "But just as [the airship] began to move, a grappling hook was let down and caught one of our most truthful citizens who was instantly hoisted on board and carried away. The truthful citizen came back on the 11.30 train from White Cloud and has been talking ever since about aerial navigation."

Perhaps the reporter heard the story second-hand and simply could not take it seriously. Or perhaps he invented the "abduction" to poke fun at Robert Hibbard's claim (which received wide publicity and with which he could well have been familiar) and the alleged gullibility of airship witnesses and believers.

But we have included the account among the serious reports because of similar testimony about loud noises and music emanating from airships.

2. Since we began digging up some of the 1897 data, we have noted with satisfaction a growing interest in the period. One individual to whom UFO researchers owe a debt of gratitude is Mr. Gary Larreategui, who is responsible for bringing our attention to most of the material we have used in this article. Mr. Larreategui, showing dedication that unfortunately very few ufologists possess, has spent many hours carefully researching the newspapers of his native Michigan, providing us with some of the most revealing accounts yet.

Donald Hanlon, an associate of Jacques Vallée, is in the early stages of putting together a comprehensive study, tentatively titled *Enigma of the Airship*, based upon his own collection of approximately 200 reports. Another American writer, author of a valuable reference work on UFOs, is considering a new book which will use 1897 data. And by the time this article appears in print, Gordon Lore and Harold Deneault's long-awaited volume on the historical sightings, including 1897, should be available. In the meantime ufologists like Charles F. Flood and Ted Bloecher continue quietly to amass information.

Some of us have even begun to expand our efforts to include the 1896 California and 1909-10 Eastern U.S.A. wave, finding material too long ignored. Still, we have barely begun, and there is much, much more to do.

One thing that would greatly facilitate our work, of course, would be the discovery of research contemporary to 1897. John Keel suggested in a personal conversation with Jerome Clark that some enterprising turn-of-the-century journalist may have done a book on the airship scare. If we could locate it somehow, we could be taken

a giant step forward.

For many reasons 1897 is vital to our comprehension of the great UFO riddle. Therefore, we strongly urge readers of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW to join us in our undertaking. Interested North Americans should study newspaper files of late March, all of April, and early May 1897. West Coast researchers should check the papers of November and December 1896, with spot checks into months before and after.

There is cause to believe as well that 1880, 1883 (in fact the whole 1877-87 period, termed by the late M. K. Jessup "the incredible decade"), 1907-10, and 1913 have something to offer American and Canadian investigators.

Residents of the British Isles might check out the airship flap of 1909, which Fort describes briefly in *Lo!* Ufologists in middle Europe, especially Germany, should study the newspapers and magazines of the late 1850's, and Frenchmen should find the 1860's fertile territory. South Africans should concentrate on 1914.

One last suggestion: Perhaps a Canadian ufologist could go through the Toronto papers of October 5, 1896, to see if there is anything in them of conceivable relevance to our subject. By dropping this specific issue at Dan Gray's feet, the ufonauts may have been trying to tell us something.

20 YEARS BACK

Brinsley le Poer Trench

THE year 1949 was not a vintage one as regards the number of reported sightings. However, two notable incidents occurred and the first of these took place on April 24.

At that time Commander R. B. McLaughlin, a regular Naval officer, was in charge of a team of scientists at White Sands Testing Ground, New Mexico. Actually, during 1948 and 1949 McLaughlin and his team made several UFO sightings, but the April 24, 1949, one is generally considered to be the best one.

At about 10.30 a.m. Commander McLaughlin's team were preparing to send up one of the giant 100-foot diameter Naval Skyhook balloons. The sky was crystal clear. They had already sent aloft a weather balloon to check lower altitude winds. Some of the team under Charles B. Moore, Jnr., were busy tracking this balloon at about 10,000ft. when suddenly one man shouted and drew their attention to another object much higher and away to the left of the balloon.

To their astonishment the team of scientists saw an elliptical-shaped UFO which was whitish-silver in colour. One of them swung the theodolite being used to track the weather balloon round on to the UFO and tracked it for a whole minute. The unknown object finally climbed away very fast and was lost to sight in a matter of seconds.

Subsequently, the scientists estimated that the UFO had been at a height of 56 miles when first spotted and travelling at 7 miles per second, that is at 17,000 miles per hour!

The late Edward J. Ruppelt, former head of Project Blue Book, in his book *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*, related how the March 1950 issue of *True* magazine carried an article called "How Scientists tracked Flying Saucers", written by Commander McLaughlin himself.

"I am convinced," McLaughlin wrote, "that it was a flying saucer, and further, that these discs are spaceships from another world, operated by animate, intelligent beings."

For some extraordinary reason his story had been given full clearance by the military, but according to Ruppelt the material in the article was in direct contradiction to all releases made by them during the previous two years. This is another example of the confusion and conflicting views foisted on the public. Hot news and then cold douches repeated alternately all the time.

The impact of the Commander's article in *True* magazine was formidable and many people were convinced that if scientists were seeing UFOs then there was something very real from outer space watching our planet.

The sequel was that Commander McLaughlin suddenly found himself posted from White Sands to the destroyer *Bristol*. Possibly the United States Navy prefers its regular officers to maintain silence over some matters in the same way that our Royal Navy is traditionally known as the silent service.

SOURCES

The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects by Edward J. Ruppelt (Doubleday) 1956.

The Truth about Flying Saucers by Aimé Michel (Criterion Books) 1956.

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MAIL BAG

Correspondence is Invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to ackowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

Vallée on Witness Intimidation

Sir,—A recent letter by Janet Gregory (*Mail Bag*, November/December 1968) raises the question of witness intimidation and observes that its scope appears to be limited to the USA: "In my fairly extensive reading, I cannot remember having seen any reference to these gentlemen (the intimidators) other than in the USA." Perhaps the following case is relevant in this context:

On July 24, 1952, a man who was fishing in the Serchio river, near Vico, Italy, at night, saw a disc hovering nearby for ten minutes. From it, he said, hung a hose-like object that plunged into the water. The disc itself measured an estimated 20 metres in diameter, had five "propeller"-like things in the rear and a dome on top. An orange glow could be seen through slits along the deck

A man wearing a diving helmet looked at the witness through a window, who, before he could get away, received what he described as "an electric shock" as a ray of light hit him. His strength failed, and it was with difficulty that he looked up to observe the departure of the object in an easterly direction.

Six days later the witness was again fishing at the same spot when a tall, thin man, who spoke Italian with a foreign accent ("rather Scandinavian than American") approached him and asked if he had seen airplanes or flying saucers from this particular spot. The witness said no. The man offered him a long, golden-tipped cigarette. The witness began smoking it, and thought he was about to die as his head reeled. . . . The stranger took the cigarette away and threw it into the river, leaving the witness weak and helpless.

You will find this report in the September 25, 1952, issue of *La Nazione*, a Florentine newspaper.
Jacques Vallée.

Was Whippingham barley diseased?

Sir,—I would like to be quite sure that the article "Healthier, heavier harvests" by Sir Frederick Bowden in the July 18, 1968, issue of *New Scientist* has been brought to your attention. There is a reference here to wheat laid flat by infection with the eye-spot fungus and an accompanying photograph. The latter so closely resembles your May/June 1968 cover photograph that I feel this requires further investigation. I have absolutely no information on the character of the disease and I do not even know if it can attack barley as well as wheat. I would be grateful if you would ensure that Mr. L. Cramp has been informed (he has probably seen this already). If he can obtain information on the symptoms of the disease, he is best qualified to compare them with his observations in the Isle of Wight barley fields.

It is worth remarking here that "brute force" is not the only way of creating such havoc to crops as Mr. Cramp observed at Whippingham. These deadly little organisms can be just as effective.

I think it is most important that all your readers are made aware of this fact and so please feel free to publish this letter. I would also appreciate your comments.

I would just like to mention one other completely unrelated fact. There is quite a good article in the German magazine *Stern* (December 1, 1968) entitled "War Gott ein Astronaut?" I haven't time at the moment to send you a translation, but perhaps Mr. Creighton will supply you with one.
M. Eastwood, B.Sc., Turnham Green, London W.4, November 30, 1968.

The disappearing scarecrow

Sir,—After reading the article *Encounter with "Devils"* (FSR, September/October 1968) I was persuaded by my family to re-tell my meeting with similar creatures.

It must be almost forty years ago, as a little girl of six, I was often taken by my father for a walk in the fields along Anstey Lane, Leicester. On one such occasion, being a hot summer's day, my father settled down to have a sleep while I read a book.

I suddenly became aware of something watching me, and saw what I took at first to be a scarecrow. It looked like a scarecrow because of its odd shape, and the fact that it was all in black and did not appear to have any face, although it had a large head. I was some distance from it, so it may well have had features which I could not discern, but I did notice that its arms were long and dangling. Being interested in my book, I dismissed it as being just a scarecrow and continued to read.

However, I could still feel it watching me, and on looking up again I saw by the side of it what I at first took to be a hut. As the hut had not been there before, I became frightened and tried to wake my father. When I eventually woke him the scarecrow and the hut had disappeared. For years afterwards the tale of the disappearing scarecrow has always been a big joke with my family.

My son, who is familiar with my scarecrow story, on looking through the September/October edition of *Flying Saucer Review* came to me and said: "Look, mummy, isn't this what you saw?" The sphere and the black figure were absolutely identical to my scarecrow and the hut. My black figure must have been about five feet in height and reminded me of an octopus, but with fewer legs. I remember thinking at the time what a funny hut it was because it was like a large globe on legs.
Pauline Berger, Leicester, December 1, 1968 (per Dr. B. E. Finch).

UFOs and fault lines

Sir,—I was most interested to read the articles "UFOs and Fault Lines" by F. Lagarde and "UFOs, Earthquakes and Volcanoes" by Gordon Creighton, both in the July/August edition of *Flying Saucer Review*. It seems that there may be an interesting link with the discovery of "orthotenies".

Admitting the fact that UFO sightings on a particular day can be aligned, I understand that in noting the exact location of such reports and in discovering an alignment, the *direction* in which the UFO was travelling at the time of the sighting is apparently irrelevant. This is a rather surprising fact—that whether the UFO is seen travelling along what is subsequently found to be an orthoteny, or at an angle to it, the object is only reported from a location which places it exactly on the alignment.

F. Lagarde, in his article, shows that there is a statistical relationship between UFO reports and fault lines; he notes that faults appear to be the scenes of delicate electrical or magnetic effects, while they also seem to be a favourite spot for thunderbolts during storms. Gordon Creighton also draws our attention to the fact that earthquakes are often preceded or accompanied by strange luminous objects in

the sky. In my own locality, it is recorded in a local newspaper that a strong earth tremor which shook buildings in Guernsey on December 22, 1843, was preceded by a very remarkable meteor and that the appearance of the sky was also very unusual.

The possible connection between UFOs and fault lines now becomes apparent. Is it possible that the reason why a UFO travelling across an orthoteny is only reported from a point exactly on the alignment is because it is only visible or luminous at that point? Could the factors which seem to produce luminous effects during seismic activity also induce luminosity of a UFO in the immediate vicinity of a fault line with its associated electro/magnetic characteristics? If this is correct, the sudden appearance or disappearance of UFOs, repeated observations over a certain locality, and the fact that UFOs cannot usually be tracked from point to point across country, could each be explained if a UFO, normally travelling too high to be observed, becomes luminous over certain points on the earth's surface. It remains to be seen whether orthotenies do, in fact, coincide with fault lines.

G. A. Falla, "St. Brendan's," King's Road, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, August 27, 1968.

Stranger on the street

Sir,—Your article on "Strangers About the House" in FSR of September/October 1968, and especially Mrs. B's story, rang a bell with me. The following paragraph from your article sounded familiar. I quote:

"Her uninvited guest, quite solid in appearance, would simply stand looking at her, never attempting to communicate or move. Mrs. B was unable to detect from his facial expression whether he was angry, surprised or just plain bored. *He never smiled* . . ." (my italics).

I suddenly remembered an experience I had back in 1953. At that time I had never heard of flying saucers or of visitors from elsewhere, nor did I know that there was somebody by the name of George Adamski.

It was a fine summer day in June, I think, about noon, and as I had plenty of time I leisurely did some window-shopping in the most popular shopping-street in Vienna, the Mariahilferstrasse. While looking into one window I noticed with the corner of my eye somebody standing in the doorway beside the window, facing me and the street. I looked and my eyes met those of a good-looking, tall, well-dressed young man. He did not stare at me, but looked quickly away. I hardly took any notice and walked on to one of the next windows. After a moment my eyes were again drawn to the door next to the window and there was the same man, looking straight into my eyes with a very concentrated expression on his serious face. There was not the faintest trace of a smile, neither was there anything repulsive in his look. I began to wonder if he knew me; but if he did, then why didn't he smile? I'd never before met a person who looked at me with such an expression on his face.

Next I had to cross a street. There was a bustling crowd afoot. We had to wait for the traffic to pass. There he was again, standing on the opposite side, looking at me. When I moved with the crowd across the street he did not move. He stood like a rock in a surging sea, one head taller than everybody else. He did not move when I had to pass close by, so that I couldn't help brushing him with my arm. Then I reached my tram-stop where again I had to wait in a crowd. I turned round and met his eyes—he was standing behind me! He did not take the slightest interest in what was going on around him. When he turned his eyes away, he looked with a far away, detached look, across the heads and the turmoil as if nothing was there around him. And indeed, no one seemed to take any notice of him either.

At this point I have to explain something: at that time Austria was under occupation and in Vienna we had four occupying powers. The power which was stationed in the district I lived in was well known for kidnapping people. This happened very frequently. Not knowing anything about space-people, and not having any explanation for the strange behaviour of that man, I remembered that kidnapping business and I confess that I began to get worried. I resolved to go straight to the police should he continue to follow me. When I looked round he was gone and I did not see him again.

The thing that really puzzled me was the fact that I never saw that man move one muscle, except for his eyes. I never saw him make one step; he always stood still while I passed him by, yet wherever I stopped there he was. Isn't there a similarity to Mrs. B's visitor? But there is a difference: this man in Vienna with his concentrated look gave me the impression that he had a purpose, that he wanted to convey something.

(Mrs.) Dora Bauer, Karolinengasse 14/14, A-1040 Wien IV, Austria, October 24, 1968.

The Fogl Photograph

Sir,—Reference an observation on page 35 of the July/August 1968 issue of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW on the subject of the Fogl photograph. In the period 1964-1966, BUFORA Committee members "knew" the photograph to be a fake only on the strength of an allegation by a colleague that Mr. Fogl had so informed him. The colleague in question—now no longer on the National Executive Committee of BUFORA—declined to permit us to act on his statement, of which we held no documentary proof at all.

I wrote to the Hon. Brinsley Le Poer Trench and to you on the matter in the spring or summer of 1966. In the autumn 1966 issue of "BUFORA Journal", believing wrongly that documentary evidence had at last reached our files, I inserted a paragraph exposing the fake. The paragraph was written BEFORE I saw your exposé in the September/October 1966 issue of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW.

It may be said that BUFORA's Committee ought to have followed up the "tip" it received with independent enquiries into the authenticity of the Fogl photograph. However, the entire field of UFO photography is riddled with fakery and if we followed up all such verbal allegations we should have time for nothing else.

J. Cleary - Baker, Ph.D., Editor, BUFORA Journal, 3 Devenish Road, Weeke, Winchester, August 12, 1968.

[*I regret the delay in publishing this letter, due to misfiling*—EDITOR.]

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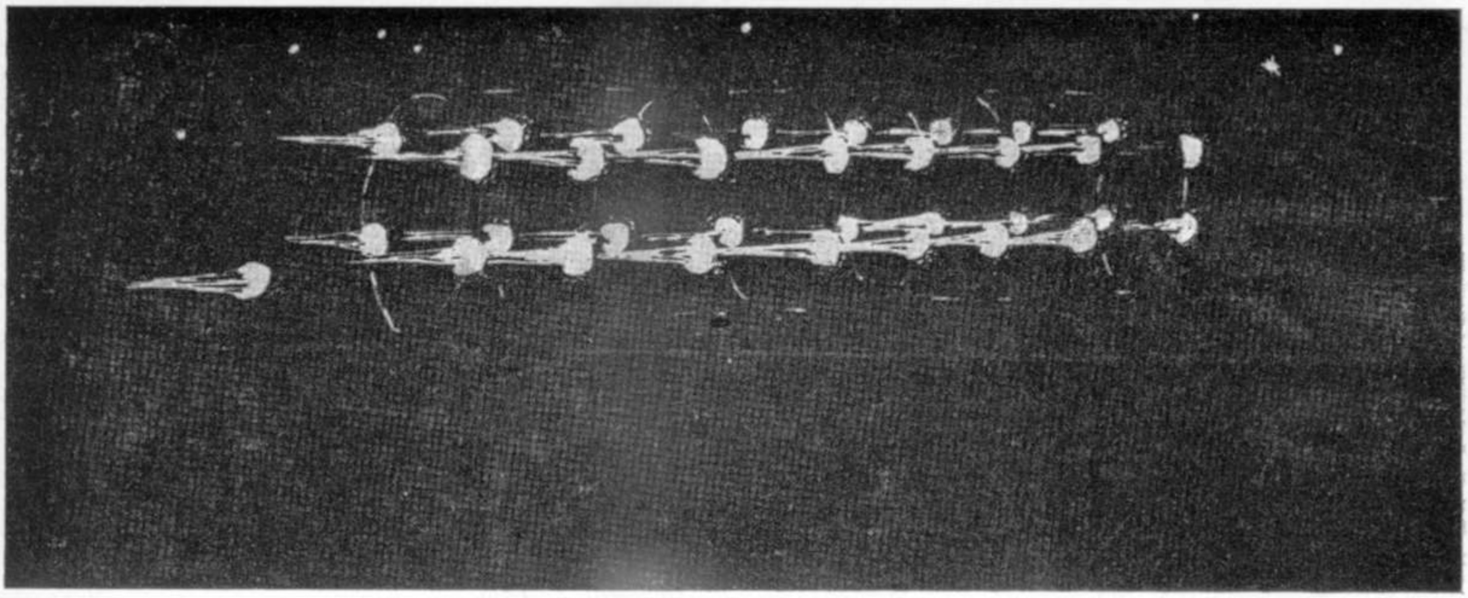

An artist's impression: Courtesy Wansted Express and Independent.

SKY SPECTACULAR

Charles Bowen

PERHAPS the most important feature of the tremendous display of lights over England* on November 20, 1968, was the amount of interest it engendered among the thousands who saw it.

The first hint I had that anything had happened was when Mrs. Spencer called me on the phone from our King's Grove address. That was at 7.20 p.m., about half an hour after I had driven home from the station, just too early to see the display. Telephone enquiries had been received from Mr. Tuohy, a Hendon lecturer, from the Wanstead *Express and Independent* who had received a report from a naval officer named Chown, from Mr. Wickham of East Croydon, and from a reader, Mr. McLeod, of Lewisham.

The accounts seemed similar: several glowing objects with multi-coloured tails cruising across the sky from North North West to South South East just before 7.00 p.m.

My immediate reaction to this was: "Satellite re-entry."

Mrs. Spencer urged caution: "How can I tell them that when you haven't checked it?"

Widely dispersed reports

I mumbled that I thought it was "that" because the reports had come from widely dispersed places at approximately the same time, and that I'd get back to my evening meal and await developments. As the meal proceeded, it occurred to me that the direction quoted was an unusual one for a satellite. It promised to be quite an evening . . . and it was.

Mr. Tuohy had mentioned that he had called the news desk of the London *Evening News* and learned that they were swamped with calls; it was not over long before I found myself in a similar position.

An old friend, scientist John Rosevear, was the next caller. In the early days of FSR, Mr. Rosevear had been heartily sceptical about the subject. Now, he wanted to tell me about the amazing sight he'd seen, this group of lights with coloured tails, travelling in a formation which covered an estimated 10° of arc in the sky. He couldn't think it was a satellite, as he'd seen that happen before. The passage of the lights was on a horizontal course, at what seemed to be the altitude of a jetliner which had taken off from London Airport, and this observer said they seemed to pass into a high bank of cloud. Mr. Rosevear was walking along Oriental Road, Woking, and he said the time of the sighting was 6.58 p.m.

Then, while Mrs. Spencer was telling me about four more callers and suggesting that I had a word with Lieut.-Commander V. J. Chown of Woodford, Essex, another friend, Robin Hole, of Horsell, Woking, was ushered into the room. Mr. Hole's business is insurance, and he had been making a call at a Sheerwater, Woking, address just before 7.00 p.m. As he had alighted from his car, he heard an unusual noise, but he couldn't relate it to anything. He walked a few yards to the garden gate of his client's house, then, as he turned to shut the gate behind him, he saw the display of lights. Although his attention had been riveted to the lights, he still felt—after the sighting—that they and the noise were associated. The lights were at no great height, said Mr. Hole, for they seemed to disappear into a bank of cloud.

Aligned on "invisible tube"?

I rang Cdr. Chown, and he said the lights seemed to him to be assembled as if around an invisible tube, rather like the old Graf Zeppelin in shape; there were two leading lights out of a total of about 15. The Commander was impressed by the way the objects kept station, just like warships. His estimate of the altitude: no more than 1,000ft.

In between the incoming calls, I contrived to have a word with Bryan Winder, hoping he could give me a check on satellites. From him I learned that Gordon Creighton was out and about checking on witnesses from Rickmansworth and Watford, and, being out and about, was completely unaware that the phenomenon had been witnessed over a much wider area.

Mr. Creighton's news did not reach

* And over parts of North Western Europe as well, as I learned a few days later.

me until the following day, and in the meantime we had heard officially what the objects were supposed to be. ITN reported that according to Greenwich Observatory they were caused by a decaying satellite, while a meteorological establishment opined that we had observed a meteorite shower. Next morning we were told that the Royal Observatory at Herstmonceux had watched the lights and identified them as the Russian rocket "Cosmos 253" re-entering the atmosphere.

A colleague of mine, Mr. James Horn, told me that his son had been spectator at the League Cup soccer match between Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur, and that most of the 40,000 fans must have seen the stately passage of the lights.

Russian denial

As I was not inclined to accept the official explanation without reservations, I asked Bernard Finch if he would check with the Russian Embassy whether or not any Russian ironmongery had rè-entered the atmosphere that evening. Their reply was a firm "No". This denial was confirmed to reader Mr. Gill, who told us he had checked with the Russian News Agency.

Next day, while reports of the lights were coming in from the Midlands and the North, Gordon Creighton handed me his reports. They tallied very much with those I had obtained. A physician at a big London hospital—he had once invited Mr. Creighton to lecture on UFOs—had telephoned to say he had been at the Arsenal-Spurs match, and that he was now more prepared to think UFOs existed than he had been at the time of the lecture.

Then there was the Watford man who told Mr. Creighton and his co-investigator, Graham Williams, FRAS, how he saw two rows of whitish lights, parallel to each other, and leaving a large trail of lilac and lemon-coloured light. The leading lights, however, were reddish hued.

The straggler

The most interesting of the Creighton reports came from Albert Davey, FRAS, who had received a telephone call from a Mr. Edwards of Latimer, near Chesham, Bucks, who asked if he could explain *eight* red lights which had just passed over the Edwards' farm, heading South East towards Rickmansworth. The lights were in *line abreast* and one of them kept stopping dead in its tracks for a few seconds and then *catching up with the others*. The passage of the lights took about 45 seconds, and according to the Edwards family, they "just went out" before they had gone the distance at which they would normally have been expected to pass from view. When asked next day if he agreed with the official explanation that he had seen the Soviet Satellite Cosmos 253 breaking up Mr. Edwards replied: "Absolute rubbish".

Which seems to be the general consensus of opinion about the official explanation.

World round-up *of news and comment about recent sightings*

ALGERIA
Biskra Saucer

In *Le Progrès* (Saône et Loire edn.) of August 8, 1968, we read that

"Yesterday (August 7) at 7.45 p.m. an oddly-shaped device resembling an umbrella drawing behind it a luminous green trail has been watched for 30 seconds by the people of Biskra. This sighting is confirmed by many inhabitants of this Algerian town.

(Credit: **H-J. Besset** of Chenove, France.)

BRAZIL
"Dino Kraspedon"

In a letter from Nigel Rimes: "At the beginning of August 1968, Aladino Felix, alias Sabado Dinotos, alias *Dino Kraspedon*, appeared on television in São Paulo and stated publicly that his book *Meu Contacto Com Os Discos Voadores* (*My Contact with Flying Saucers*) was nothing more than sheer invention.

"At the end of August, he was arrested, together with a number of other people, charged with being the leader of a terrorist group in Brazil. It now seems pretty certain that he was certainly deeply involved in terrorist activities, but was by no means the leader of the group. The press has been full of his testimony, and indeed on September 10 the São Paulo paper *Ultima Hora* devoted the whole of three pages to it, with headlines five inches high. He has been 'singing like the proverbial canary', but what he has said is so fantastic and so contradictory that there can be no doubt that the poor chap is extremely unbalanced. He has even gone so far as to say that his arrest will have serious consequences for humanity, as the Venusians will soon attack Earth in order to free him and his friends."

[Dealing with the claim of "Dino Kraspedon" under Case No. 3 in his article in THE HUMANOIDS (*The "Humanoids" in Latin America*) Gordon Creighton wrote in October 1966 as follows:

"No confirmation of the Kraspedon story is known, and most people hold it to be entirely fictitious".

We have in fact never heard from any of our South American correspondents that they considered the story to be genuine—EDITOR.]

MOZAMBIQUE
UFO trails lorry

The *Pretoria News* (South Africa) of November 7 carried a SAPA account from Lourenço Marques of how—

"A lorry driver, Mr. Joao Alves da Silva, said yesterday [November 6] that an unidentified flying object followed his lorry for two hours on the road from Zavala to Chidenguele in the district of Inhambane on Monday night.

"Mr. Alves da Silva's assistant, Mr. Jose Matavele, who sat on top of a load of timber on the lorry, said the strange, bright object followed them for two hours, taking all the bends in the road and flying at such a low altitude that at times it was hidden by the trees. Mr. Matavele said the object was about 60 yards across, with a dome on top.

"Near Chidenguele the object disappeared into the sky at great speed.

"Mr. Alves da Silva said he was not surprised at the sight of the object, as he had seen several from 1961 to 1966."

(Credit: **M. Imber,** Pretoria.)

RUMANIA
Reports down the years

The Swiss paper *La Voix Ouvrière* (Geneva) of August 21, 1968, published a translation of an article by the Rumanian writer Ion Hobana about sightings in his country.

Case 1. Hobana, who says he finds the extraterrestrial hypothesis the most likely, quotes a number of Rumanian sightings, the first of them dating from 1926 when an old peasant claimed to have seen a UFO at 1 a.m. one morning near Cîrta, in the Sibiu District. He saw what at first he took to be a full moon stationary for five or six minutes above Cîrta. Then it came

Watkins

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Cover Logotype by Pauline Bowen

towards him and passed above him, making no sound except for a whistling "like the whistling of the wind". The object lit up the whole area with an intensely vivid light. The peasant, hiding in the long grass, looked up and saw what he later described as "a boat 3 metres long and 1 to 2 metres wide, dark in the centre, and as bright as the full moon at both extremities". Hobana considers this to be the first known UFO sighting in Rumania.

Case 2. One afternoon in the summer of 1944, the Rumanian engineer Grigore Zmeuranu was at the Vega Petroleum Refinery, north of Ploesti. There had just been an attack on the installations by Allied bombers, and oil tanks were still burning fiercely. Suddenly the witness observed a yellow object with a white tail (the latter much shorter than an aircraft trail). At first only of pin-point size in the sky, the object approached, and he could see that it had very clear outlines "and seemed to be propelled by a vibratory movement". It was silent, and moving at several times the speed of an aircraft. After flying around over the burning refinery, it flew off again towards the north, whence it had come.

Case 3. The retired Professor Dumitru Coca of Oradea reported that one summer night in 1955 he and his wife were returning on foot from Fagaras. It was between midnight and 1 a.m. and the night very clear and calm. For some two or three minutes, at a height which he estimated at not more than 1,000 metres, they saw a vivid blue disc of an apparent diameter of 1½ metres. It was silent, edged with whitish-bluish flashes of light, and flying very fast, on a straight course but with lateral oscillations.

Case 4. On the afternoon of September 18, 1967, the engineer Veleriu Bita, of Bucharest, was on the bridge of a ship sailing from Tulcea to Sfintu Gheorghe (along the lower Danube) when he saw a vivid bright disc-shaped object, stationary at an estimated height of some 200-300 metres, and some 500-600 metres from the vessel. He estimated its width at 6 or 8 metres, and it had a "tail" about the same length. The outer area of the disc was of a purplish-very red colour, and the colour of the "tail" was that of a butane flame. From the extremity of the tail emerged short bursts of flame. The object, silent throughout the sighting, remained stationary for four minutes, then began to rotate, moved sideways, stopped again, and then suddenly shot away, at fantastic speed, straight up into the sky and vanished in the clouds.

Case 5. The following report came from Ladislau Schmit of Petrila:

"On November 22, 1967, at about half-an-hour after noon, I suddenly saw all my chickens in my backyard looking upwards and rushing madly towards me. Thinking that there must be a hawk overhead, I looked up too, and saw, very clearly indeed, a brilliant disc-shaped object of the colour of silver or aluminium. It had a small bulge on the under side, and a larger bulge on the upper side, which had several projections sticking out like stalks or antennae. The weather was fine and the sky cloudless. I pointed the object out to several people who were passing on the road."

* * * * *

Although not as wildly exciting as some of the reports to which we are now getting accustomed, these accounts are not without interest in view of the fact that they emanate from one of the satellite countries of Eastern Europe.

Ion Hobana states specifically that there has been a great increase in sightings in Rumania in the years since 1965.

(Credit: **Señor Ignacio Darnaude Rojas-Marcos** of Sevilla.)

SOUTH AFRICA
Cloud-like UFO

We read in *Die Volksblad* (Bloemfontein) of July 6, 1968, how "An unidentified flying object like a circular cloud in a cloudless sky, kept scores of people guessing in Bloemfontein and in several parts of the O.F.S. Many were obviously distressed and telephoned *Die Volksblad* to ascertain what it was.

"According to the S.A. Broadcasting Corporation the object was also seen at Thabazimbi, Vryburg and Stilfontein.

"The pilot of a S.A. Boeing airliner en route to Cape Town reported that he saw the object near Jagersfontein, but when *Die Volksblad* approached an official in the control tower at the J.B.M. Hertzog Airport, and asked for an explanation, he said that all such information was strictly confidential and that he was not permitted to divulge anything.

"Early that evening several Bloemfontein residents started phoning *Die Volksblad* to report 'the thing'. One woman even asked that someone be sent outside to investigate and to report back to her.

"According to residents who phoned from the suburbs of General De Wet, Hospital Par, Dan Pienaar and Noordhoek, the object was yellowish-white to orange in colour with a dark patch in the centre. It seemed to be 10 to 13ft. in diameter.

"Later that night people from Bethlehem, Heilbron and Abrahamskraal phoned and gave an identical description. They said that the object approached from the south-west at a height of approximately 6,000ft. and travelled ever so slowly in a north-easterly direction, and sometimes it seemed to hover. It lingered in that area and was often visible for up to ten minutes.

"An official at the Lamont Hussey Observatory on Naval Hill in Bloemfontein told *Die Volksblad* that people as far afield as Brandfort and even a place 110 miles away from the city had phoned him. He said that he had not seen the object himself, and could therefore not give an explanation."

(Credit—and thanks for translation too—to **Miss E. van Vloten.)**

SPAIN
Humanoids in Majorca patio

The following interesting case has come to us from **Antonio Ribera,** who investigated a report made privately by the daughter of Count de Rivas. The incident took place in a patio of the Count's house "Bellagra", on the Island of Majorca (Mallorca), about 5 kilometres from Palma de Mallorca. The witness gave Señor Ribera the following testimony—

"That night (I don't recall the precise date, but it was in July 1967) I was the last one to go to bed. I was sleeping at my sister-in-law's. I remember that I read for a while before turning in, and when I began to feel sleepy I turned off all the lights in the house and went upstairs to my room. I should explain that my room looks out on a very large inside patio, and the window is not very far above the ground-level. I was asleep when, at 3.00 a.m., I was awakened by a most intensely bright light shining into my room. I was disturbed by this, for I remembered that I had turned them all off. Still half asleep, I could see that the light was coming from the inside patio. I went to the window, and was terrified to see, in front of it, two small figures, the size of children, which seemed to be talking together and had apparently climbed up via the embrasure.

"They seemed to have very big heads or to be wearing helmets and, another thing, they had enormous eyes.

"I didn't know what to do. I tried to awaken my sister-in-law, but she paid no heed to me. Then I tried to turn on the light, but it would not work. Then, I don't know why, I thought of going to look for some candles, and when I got back to my room the brightness and the little men had disappeared and the light functioned perfectly.

"I was extremely nervous as a result, stayed in bed for three days, and since then I have not dared to sleep alone.

"The only proof I have about the little men are the two little footprints that they left near the window, for

however much we painted over them, they always showed through again. In the end we scraped them off and they are now gone. (This matter of the little footprints is authentic, and is corroborated by some of my relations who live near this estate.)

"My brother-in-law, who is a pilot with the Iberia Air Lines, took a statement from me. During his flights he has several times seen strange objects that he could not identify.

"That is all. I wasn't dreaming and I would submit myself for any sort of examination to prove that I am telling the truth."

Landing in Aragón

Yet another case from the files of **Antonio Ribera** concerns the reported landing of a huge disc near Los Monegros, in the Province of Aragón, on November 1, 1968. A statement was prepared for Señor Ribera by one of the witnesses—

"Francisco Marti Cuastero is doing his military service at Zaragoza. In the early morning of November 1, 1968, having been on leave for the Festival of All Saints, he was returning by car with us, four of his friends, to Zaragoza, along the Los Monegros road, from Barcelona.

"It was about 4.30 a.m., and we were all chatting and listening to our car radio when, at a point some 40 kilometres before Zaragoza, one of our party shouted: 'Look! The sun's coming up!' We then perceived that the enormous orange disc we were looking at could not possibly be the sun, as it was coming up out of the *West*.

"When the car had reached a distance of some 500 metres from the object, the engine stopped, the lights failed and our watches stopped. Tremendously scared and excited, we watched the enormous disc land to the left of the road, some 500 metres from where we were. We could not see whether it was actually touching the ground. It was of a most brilliant orange colour, and appeared metallic. Its shape resembled a cupola, as shown in the sketch. Its size was huge, comparable to the size of a bull-ring. Its brightness was tremendous, but it had no luminous halo around it. It remained for about three minutes on the ground, and then began to rise, gently and silently.

"While still quite near the ground, it suddenly accelerated violently and in a few seconds all that could be seen was a small orange point in the sky.

"As soon as it was gone, the engine, lights, radio, and watches all began to function normally again.

"We estimate that the total duration of the sighting, from its first appearance until it vanished from sight, was approximately five minutes.

"The sky was cloudy at the time. There were no high-tension power lines in the vicinity.

"On arriving in Zaragoza, we informed the military authorities."

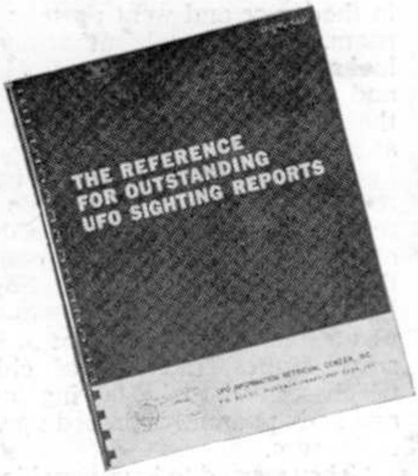
USSR
Huge UFO near Moscow

An AFP report datelined Moscow, August 14, 1966, was carried in *Le Figaro* of August 15, 1966. It told how—

"A celestial, spherical luminous object was seen on the night of August 7, 1966, by the inhabitants of Kutslima village, near Moscow.

"The witnesses, interviewed by the *Leninskoye Znamya* daily newspaper, claim that the object, even when seen from afar, was the apparent size of an electric light bulb. It followed a straight line and finally broke up above the horizon, bursting silently into thousands of sparks."

(Credit: **H-J. Besset** of Chenove, France.)



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